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THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT ON APEC

-Proceedings and Final Report-

March 1998

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THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT ON APEC

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105-03169/

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC
- Proceedings -
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Summary: -

The document begins with a 41 page collection of daily communiques from the Summit. It also includes the opening speech by Jose Ramos Horta (Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales and Special Representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance) which touches on the following points: continuing need to fulfill human rights commitments, the immorality of arms sales as a cause of destruction and war; and the human rights situations in Burma, China, Taiwan, Tibet, and East Timor. The speech by Maude Barlow (Council of Canadians) is also included, which criticised APEC as a flawed and misguided process focusing on market-centred ideologies to the detriment of progress in human rights in the region. The Proceedings also includes the Preamble which essentially rejects the basic philosophy of free trade and trade liberalisation, condemns the consequences of unregulated economic growth such as exploitation of people by unaccountable transnational corporations and international financial institutions, and calls on governments to end authoritarian rule. Final reports of various issue forums of the People's Summits are also attached. These forums include the Youth Forum, Women's Conference Against APEC, Human Rights, Indigenous People's caucus, among others.

Highlights of recommendations arising from the forums:

- ensure labour laws are respected;
- limit corporate influence in schools;
- non-profit organisations to monitor APEC;
- open up APEC to the media;
- ensure women's full participation in policy formulation and decision-making processes;
- ensure transparency, accountability and accessibility in trade negotiations ;
- APEC members report on current condition of freedom of expression and association in their respective countries
- build economies that eliminate the need for trade in arms

THE 1997

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

on APEC

Proceedings

March 1998

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THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

YOUTH FORUM

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

day 1

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1997

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT LAUNCHES

Summit events open with Youth Forum

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC got off the ground yesterday with the opening of the Youth Forum. The five day forum, hosted by CoDevelopment Canada, brings together 77 youth aged 16 to 19 to generate dialogue and discussion between youth from BC, the rest of Canada and the 18 APEC nations. Youth at the forum will also work to ensure that the opinions and concerns of youth are included within the agenda of the People's Summit on APEC.

Forum delegates spent Friday in a range of activities, discussions, art-making, and "icebreakers" designed to begin to build an awareness and understanding of each other's experiences, perspectives, and goals, which participants will develop as they face weighty topics in the days ahead.

Today delegates will start the day hearing from guest speaker Seth Klein of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, and in the afternoon from David Orchard, a Saskatchewan farmer and author who is the chair of Citizens Concerned About Free Trade. The day's eight workshops include UBC Global Development, Rediscovery, Child Labour, Native Youth Movement, Primate World Relief, Racial Justice, Labour Economics and an introduction to Co-op Radio, Vancouver's community access radio station.

Youth come from all over

The Youth Forum's participants come from a range of backgrounds, schools, organizations and experiences. While many of the 77 delegates come from Vancouver, others come from around the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, and across B.C. Delegates from outside the province include Simcoe, Kitchener and Ajax in Ontario, Prince Albert in Saskatchewan, and Westmount in Quebec, as well as delegates from Newfoundland and the Yukon. International delegates come from New Zealand, Papau New Guinea, Chile, Mexico, China, Indonesia, Chile, Korea, the Philippines, Malaysia and the United States.

Delegates welcomed

Smita Reebye, 16, welcomed delegates to the Youth Forum with a personal message of the honour and privilege she felt at being with such a group. "We have spent months preparing for this event, and there were many moments of anxiety and distress mixed with our youthful enthusiasm," said Reebye. "The next few days will be certainly exciting and we look ahead to forging new and lasting friendships.

"In additional to all the fun and excitement we will have together," Reebye told the assembled delegates at the opening ceremonies, "we will also have a first-hand opportunity to build bridges between our countries and our peoples."

Reebye then outlined some of the challenges faced by young people across borders and cultures, introducing some of the topics delegates would be working on in the days ahead. In closing her welcome, Reebye said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. We are poised for a long and exciting journey. We, the youth gathered here, have taken the first step."

Youth forum on Native land

Rebeka Tabobondung, a board member of Co-Development Canada, then welcomed delegates to the conference by acknowledging the forum was held on First Nations land. "The first thing I would like to do is acknowledge that we are in Coast Salish Territory," said Tabobondung, who offered thanks to the Burrard and Squamish bands "for allowing us to be here."

"CoDev strongly believes that we cannot separate ourselves with what is happening in other parts of the world," said Tabobondung in her address. "APEC effects all of us. We are overjoyed and honoured to be working with youth from the Asia Pacific and throughout Canada in this unique forum."

Tabobondung, 21, is a First Nations youth, Ojibwa from Wasauksiing First Nation. She is studying peace and conflict studies at Vancouver's Langara College.

Svend Robinson gives opening address

Federal Member of Parliament Svend Robinson was the youth forum's first guest speaker. In her welcome to Robinson, Rebeka Tabobondung acknowledged Robinson's long activist history, from his days as the first student elected to the University of British Columbia Board of Governors, to his more recent stint at a provincial jail for his part in protesting logging in B.C.'s Clayoquat Sound. "He believes in taking political leadership beyond parliament," noted Tabobondung.

"Today you are a part of history," Robinson told the youth delegates, thanking them for allowing him to be a part of the forum.

Robinson's address touched on a vast range of human rights, labour, and environmental issues across the Asia Pacific and around the world. Robinson, who was forced to leave an official visit to China for speaking out on human rights abuses, called Canada's stance "shamefully silent" on many international abuses, and continued to call for the Canadian government to take a stronger stand on countries with histories of human rights abuses. Robinson condemned the federal government for breaking its own laws by allowing Indonesian president Soeharto to enter Canada for the APEC meetings.

If Canada put human rights, the environment, workers rights, at the centre of what we were doing, it would benefit everyone, Robinson said.

"Understand the power that you have," Robinson told the youth delegates in closing. "If you look at the course of history, it has been changed many times by people like you." Robinson cited Nelson Mandella — "27 years in prison and now the leader of South Africa" — to applause from the delegates.

In a question period following his address, Robinson suggested meeting with Canadian MPs as a way youth can take action on issues. But one delegate pointed out that contacting his MP over the Gustafsen Lake standoffs had yielded nothing. Robinson answered by stressing the importance of the youth vote in shaping Canadian politics.

What's up with the People's Summit?

The launch of the Youth Forum marks the official opening of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC. The next summit event will occur when the Women's Conference Against APEC takes place November 17 to 18. The opening ceremonies for the People's Summit will take place November 19, with forums such as poverty, public education, sustainability, labour and the arms trade, running through to November 24. To register for the People's Summit on APEC, contact the Secretariat at The 1997 People's Summit on APEC, 910 - 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 1H7, tel: (604) 682-1952, fax: (604) 682-1931, e-mail: popsum[illegible]@bc.sympatico.ca

What's up with the Daily Communiqué?

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC will produce daily communiqués on the proceedings of the various events at the summit. It appears as a printed version for delegates on-site, and allows people from around the world to follow the summit on the Internet — www.vcn.bc.ca/summit. Those with net access can also visit the youth forum website at www.islandnet.com/vglobe/codev/codev1.html

The communiqué is written by forum participants and volunteer reporters, and material is not vetted by the People's Summit for content, so the perspectives expressed remain those of the writers.

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

YOUTH FORUM

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ day 2

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1997

CCPA CAUTIONS YOUTH ON THE CORPORATE AGENDA

Seth Klein of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives opened the second day of the Youth Forum as a guest speaking on the corporate agenda, APEC and youth.

Klein, who is the coordinator of the new BC office of the Ottawa-based think tank, covered a wide range of issues in his presentation, beginning with an analysis of the corporate agenda and the central role that trade liberalization plays in entrenching its needs.

Klein then set out specific implications for youth, the specific effects of APEC in further enforcing the corporate agenda, and what people can do about it. He described working conditions for young workers in Asia-Pacific countries, noting that "no countries win in the APEC world," and that transnational corporations simply move on to more desperate and poor jurisdictions.

Klein described working conditions for young workers in Asia-Pacific countries, and noted that "no countries win in the APEC world."

In citing issues of particular concern to youth, Klein warned about the message the corporate agenda wants youth to buy into: expect less; the days of job security and a decent social safety net are over; be mobile, and be committed not to your community, but to where you can get a job; don't press for your rights, because there are other waiting to take your job; and, choose an educational focus that responds to corporate demands, not ones that meet the greater good.

Klein said he found the Youth Forum delegates to be a "very impressive group" with a good cross-section of youth from different cultures and countries. "I was also impressed by the quality of the youth organizing and leadership," said Klein, 28, who spoke across Canada as a teenager on a Peace Tour. "I was not expecting to see such a big turnout at nine o'clock on a Saturday morning."

Rediscovery workshop: with the earth, physically and spiritually

by Salimah Ebrahim, 16, West Vancouver

The Rediscovery Program was started nearly 20 years ago, on Haida, Gwaii in the Queen Charlotte Islands. It was set up to empower youth with the idea of getting back in touch with the earth both physically and spiritually. What started out as a relatively small organization now boasts programs throughout BC, New Zealand, Mongolia and the United States.

Susan Powell Martin, who facilitated the workshop, said the Rediscovery Program promotes "the cleansing of the spirit and the mind." Martin, who is of both Celtic and Native descent, was raised a Roman Catholic in Virginia, later embracing her mother's culture and becoming an advocate of the program.

Youth in the workshop discussed the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual presence of themselves in relation to the environment around them, and focussing on the balance of these elements. Martin summed it up when she said it was "the concept of being able to see the universe in a grain of sand and eternity in an hour."

The workshop focussed on one of the main issues of the youth forum: the environment. Youth shared their personal experiences of the environment taking a back seat to globalization and industrialization.

Native Youth Movement workshop: raising awareness

by Jessica Kraitberg

The Native Youth Movement workshop started with a traditional Native "sage circle," where a bowl of burning sage is passed around a circle to cleanse bad spirits from the room.

Youth delegates then moved into a "talking circle," where a feather is passed around the circle. When the participants received the feather, they told their name, age, nationality and what they knew about Native people.

The talking circle was followed by a group discussion, where youth heard of the origins of the Native Youth Movement, which began in Winnipeg, Manitoba six or seven years ago. There had been a lot of Natives in Winnipeg involved in prostitution, killings, and suicides, and a group of Native youth decided to take matters into their own hands. They started educating themselves, and formed the NYM. The goal of the NYM is to raise awareness; for example, on child apprehension.

The workshop then broke into smaller groups to discuss APEC, how it will affect indigenous cultures globally, and who it was really designed for.

The workshop was facilitated by Honey Desjarlais, Jair Machado, Nena Pierre and Billie Pierre. Desjarlais left the group with this remark: "To sum it up, APEC will be very negative to Native people."

Labour economics workshop: understanding the wave of the future

by Tiffany Kalanj, 17, Port Coquitlam

Economics is the force behind APEC. Understanding how it works helps youth make reforms to it. Profit margins, government policies and supply and demand all determine workers' wages around the world. Delegates discussed how these things effect unemployment, especially for youth. Ideas such as cooperative learning, apprenticeships, student loans and extra training programs for students still in high school were all indicated as solutions to youth unemployment. A suggestion was made about corporations funding these programs. Arciris Garay, a facilitator, raised the concern for the future that, "We won't be able to learn for learning's sake" if private enterprise funds education. Basic economics and ideas on how to reform today's economy were the main focus of this workshop.

Anti-free trade activist addresses youth

by Alice Schwarz, 17, West Vancouver

David Orchard, a fourth generation wheat farmer, anti-free trade activist, and author, was the afternoon guest speaker for the second day of the Youth Forum. Orchard made the point that he was not a politician or a lawyer, just a citizen concerned about the effects of free trade on Canada, and interested in educating other people.

Orchard's powerful speech included the claim that the United States has a long history of attempts to dominate Canada, beginning with military attacks and then through economic war. He spoke at length about NAFTA – the North American Free Trade Agreement – noting that free trade initially had no support in the American government, and leaders realized the issue had to be pushed.

"Now they know that they can't get people to vote for the free trade agreement in a democratic way," said Olive, "they have to use an iron fist to get them going."

Orchard addressed the outcomes of free trade, and how they were not as successful as promised. For example, the jobs that were promised never materialized, but the unemployment rate doubled. Orchard also spoke of other outcomes, such as slashes to social programs.

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YOUTH FORUM

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

issue 3

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1997

THE CANADIAN FEDERATION OF STUDENTS SPEAKS OUT ON EDUCATION

by Manjeet Birk, 16, Saanichton, BC and Joy Roberts, 17, New Zealand, with Brianna Spicer, 16, Langley

The third day of the Youth Forum started off with an analysis of APEC and post-secondary education by guest speaker Maura Parte, BC chair of the Canadian Federation of Students. The CFS, which is made up of representatives of colleges and universities from around BC, is concerned about cuts to post-secondary education funding, and made the connection that APEC will not help students' campaigns to stop the cuts.

Parte explained that cuts to funding cause higher tuition fees and privatization, and raised concerns about accessibility to post-secondary education, reduced public input and control, and curriculum based on business and economic interests.

> UBC student protesters have been jailed for refusing to sign a condition that would have prohibited them from protesting at the site of the APEC leader's summit.

In a workshop following Parte's speech, participants addressed the increasing privatization of public post-secondary institutions. To understand the difference between the two, delegates were asked to define each one separately. Students found that public education is cheaper, and therefore more accessible, and that public institutions are accountable to the public and students, giving them more control, and also the right to organize student unions.

CFS also addressed the irony of APEC meetings being held at the University of British Columbia, where the president has offered the Student Union Building as a security headquarters for APEC, without consulting students, and despite student action against the APEC meetings. UBC student protesters have been jailed for refusing to sign a condition that would have prohibited them from protesting at the site of the APEC leader's summit.

Child labour workshop: poverty leads to the need to work

by Zoé Jackson, 17, Comox, BC, with Sandi Chih, 17, Richmond, BC

According to the 1989 UN Convention on the Declaration of Universal Rights for Children, children "have the right to be protected from economic exploitation." Delegates at yesterday's workshop on child labour met to determine their perceived ideas of what child labour includes. Dangerous working conditions, forced labour, less access to education and low wages were some of the issues raised.

Kristin Patten and Lee Bensted of the BC-based Students Commission facilitated the group, which split into two-person mock interviews based upon profiles of child labourers, helping the group to gain a better understanding of the causes of child labour, and how widespread it is. The youth delegates found that, because of poverty or a lack of education, many who were working had no alternative.

Youth in the workshops discussed alternatives, including the need for regional standards, access to flexible education by employers. Unionizing of workers was also an important issue.

In the child labour workshop guest facilitated by Larry Kuehn on Saturday, delegates reached similar conclusions. Sandi Chih, a 17-year-old from Richmond, BC said "Abolishing child labour was our first solution for the problem, but we found the problem can only be solved step by step.

"Instead of forcing those countries that permit child labour to stop, we should respect the fact that working children need the wages to survive," said Chih. "But it is possible for us to persuade our governments to help through economic and political means."

American Friends Service Committee: racism in our schools and society

by Jorge Tenreiro, 16, Monterrey, Mexico

After attending the American Friends Service Committee workshop, delegate had a good idea of how racism affects their societies. Racial discrimination examples came from around the world, including Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Chile, and the Philippines.

Some conclusions pointed to the idea that the lack of education and cultural knowledge led to the stereotyping and general ignorance of people, thus leading to racism. The workshop coordinators illustrated the negative effects of this problem through a video on racial problems in a high school. After being familiarized with all the facts, solutions were easily obtained.

Youth delegates determined to ask leaders to eliminate barriers in schools that prevent students from learning about other cultures; for example, to implement ethnic studies courses in schools. The delegates also called for the integration of minorities and social groups into the same schools to eliminate different education levels, something made much more difficult if education is commercialized through APEC and other agreements.

LICDAT workshop: self-determination in Papua New Guinea

by Rachael Greenland, 17, Port Coquitlam

The Native people of Papua New Guinea, and other Melanesians, face the possibility of their cultures' extinction. "In traditional times, life was school, school was life," said Catherine Sasa, who, along with her husband Ngene, co-founded LICDAT – the Lou Island Community Development and Awareness Team. The two facilitators, who came to the Youth Forum to raise awareness of their region's struggles, outlined how schooling has changed in Papua, New Guinea, including communities being forced to educate their children in the language of the colonial countries that have taken them over.

Youth delegates heard how colonizing countries and multinational corporations, with the help of the World Bank and now APEC, have forced Natives from their land and caused the breakdown in traditional cultures and schooling, together with an alarming rate of environmental and social destruction.

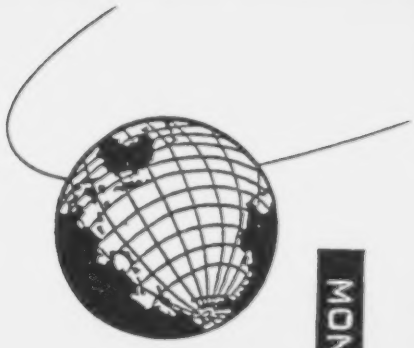
Delegates to the LICDAT workshop also made the connection of the struggles of the people of Papua New Guinea with those of First Nations people in Canada.

Youth for Social Justice workshop: youth learning about trade

by Jana Hanova, 17, Burnaby

Youth for Social Justice, a Maritime-based youth organization, came to day three of the Youth Forum to empower youth to have a voice in fighting for social justice. Participants discussed the history of APEC, the MAI, and some of their consequences: loss of natural resources, pollution, economic powerlessness, unemployment, environmental catastrophe and the loss of human rights.

Workshop leader Arciris Garay, who is an activist



with Youth for Social Justice, then led the discussion around how APEC and the MAI would have the power to manipulate governments as well as ensure that corporations will possess the power to sue governments if potential profits are prevented.

The youth at the workshop heard that economic agreements like APEC, the MAI and NAFTA are economic agreements that serve corporate profits, no matter what the cost to people.

Public education and APEC

from reporting by Jana Hanova, 17, Martin Kim, 15, and Alfred Pechisker, 15

Education was the focus of the third day of the Youth Forum. Larry Kuehn, director of research for the BC Teachers' Federation, delivered two group workshops on public education and APEC, and was the afternoon guest speaker.

In his presentation to the forum's 77 youth delegates, Kuehn outlined what can be viewed as the three purposes of education: personal development, preparing a person to contribute to society, and learning skills for the workforce. Kuehn then asked the youth audience to determine for themselves which they felt was the most important. In groups of two or three, youth determined how personal development and contributing to society are a part of being in the workforce, but if education serves only to help young people get a job, the other goals will be left out.

In his address to the group and in the workshops, Kuehn also touched on a number of other important issues, including the commercialization of public school classrooms, privatization of public education, education funding, corporate involvement in school curriculum, and the APEC agenda for public education.

For example, Kuehn provided a synopsis of the government of Korea's paper for the APEC human resources ministerial meeting. The principles set out in this paper included: education means preparing workers for business; business should determine the content of education; the content of education should be work ethic, attitudes and skills; and globalization means a common culture, and therefore a common curriculum and educational practices for APEC nations.

In setting out the alternatives for education in the age of trade liberalization and globalization, Kuehn said education should be promoted as preparing thinking citizens, and that we should value human wants and needs that are more than just economic. Youth can also call on governments to support universal access to education. Finally, Kuehn touched on the idea of valuing national cultures in education, but at the same time developing socially responsible global citizenship.

The BC Teachers' Federation offered its building to the Youth Forum, and Kuehn has been a strong support person for the organizers. He also said the experience has been a fulfilling one for him: an English and social studies teacher before becoming the BCTF's president from 1981 to 1984, Kuehn said the forum provided "the ideal learning conditions: small classes of interested and articulate people."

Self-Help Research Association workshop: Are you listening?

by Tiffany Kalanj, 17, Port Coquitlam, BC

The goals of the Self Help Research Association workshop were to examine the notion of youth's voice and to broaden the discussion about APEC. First delegates broke off into groups of two where they took turns explaining what they thought about the conference while the other partner had to show they were listening.

Eye contact, asking questions and paraphrasing were all agreed ways of showing listening. Next, participants (still in groups of two) took turns explaining how they felt about APEC. When they finished, the other partner paraphrased what they had said in two or three sentences. These excercises were used to show how important good listening skills are to communication.

"This conference allows youth to come across the seas that keep us apart, to the issues that link us together."
Aman Dhaliwal, 17, Surrey

The delegates then formed three groups, with five participants in each group. They discussed within their group what they felt about APEC. Ekraj Sabur, a delegate from Thailand, commented that "the APEC countries should be working together and helping each other." Then, in two or three sentences, youth in the workshop paraphrased what everyone in the group had said and presented it to the other groups, showing how difficult it is to include everyone's opinions in just a few sentences.

Lastly, delegates were split into two groups, one trying to communicate their belief individually and the other working in a group. Media, unions, and education were all sighted as possibilities. It was concluded that good education and good listening skills are essential for you to understand and communicate beliefs on APEC.

What's up with the People's Summit?

The launch of the Youth Forum marks the official opening of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC. The next summit event will occur with the 4th Annual INTERCEDE Domestic Workers Conference, on November 14 and 15, followed by the Women's Conference Against APEC taking place November 17 to 18. The opening ceremonies for the People's Summit will take place November 19, with daily events such as poverty, public education, sustainability, labour and the arms trade, running through to November 24. To register for the People's Summit on APEC, contact the Secretariat at The 1997 People's Summit on APEC, 910 - 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 1H7, tel: (604) 682-1952, fax: (604) 682-1931, e-mail: popsum97@bc.sympatico.ca

Other APEC events in Vancouver

The No to APEC! Coalition is holding a People's Conference Against Imperialist Globalization from November 21 to 23, and a Mobilization Against Imperialist Globalization on November 25. Contact No to APEC! at 215-9190.

APEC Alert will hold an APEC Free Zone City November 23 - 25, and a Lunch with Dictators on November 25. Contact APEC Alert at 251-9914.

Langara College's Corporate Butt Kick Week: Exposing Unethical Business, will run November 18 to 20. Contact the Langara Students Union at 324-3881.

A Cultural Survival Music Festival will be held November 20 - 22. Contact Under the Volcano at 644-4349.

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THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

YOUTH FORUM

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

issue 4

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1997

YOUTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The final day of workshops at the Youth Forum was devoted to environmental issues. The day began with guest speaker Steven Schrybma of the Western Canada Environmental Law Association, who spoke on a range of environmental issues that tie into APEC, and included an afternoon presentation by Dyana Timmer, 24, co-founder of the Environmental Youth Alliance.

Promoting sustainable agriculture

Sustainable agriculture – such as Indigenous harvesting, permaculture and community farming – are balanced systems of agriculture that are not generally detrimental to the environment. In this workshop, participants learned that not only farmers, but natural life, urban dwellers and governments contribute to this form of agriculture. The government has the power to pressure farmers and horticulturists to avoid the use of harmful chemicals. Youth, as the leaders of tomorrow, found it is important to raise awareness about this type of agriculture in all countries, and to promote sustainability. The workshops was presented by Farm Folk City Folk.

Taking action on climate change

The major topic discussed in this workshop was how youth can help to prevent climate change. The discussion included cars with damaging air-conditioning systems, the types of cars that can be purchased, and alternatives such as public transit. Many delegates agreed that the smog and noise from cars and factories disrupts communities and increases average temperatures. Also discussed was how climate change caused by deforestation causes soil erosion and weather pattern changes. These topics fit into the larger context of APEC and the corporate agenda because of the types of economies that purchase products that lead to climate change, and the types of economies that lead to environmental destruction. This workshop was presented by the Canadian Environmental Network.

Rising concerns about salmon farming

In this workshop presented by the Sierra Club of Canada, delegates learned about the farm habitats of salmon and faulty farming techniques. Among the issues discussed was space limitations on fish farms, resulting in overly dense, and therefore stressful, living spaces where fish immune systems are weakened. In these environments, sanitation is ignored, with waste left to settle on the river bed. Fish farmers are adding immune system weakening antibiotics into the feed, which people then consume from fish. Delegates also learned how Atlantic salmon is now farmed on BC's Pacific coast, introducing a wide variety of problems into the local fish habitat.

Protecting ecology in the South Pacific

The South Pacific People's Foundation presented this workshop about the many islands that make up the region of the South Pacific, and how APEC and other trade agreements will effect this stunning ecological area. Youth learned about the traditional ways in the Micronesian region, and how Western cultural imperialism has affected ways of life. Logging, mining, air pollution from factories, water contamination and dynamite fishing were some of the environmental problems discussed in the workshop. Delegates also discussed the impact of nuclear testing in the region.

Profit-making advances in biotechnology

In this workshop participants discussed the social and ethical implications of what is often viewed as a strictly technological issue. Biotechnology, which has been used in agriculture, and research on humans and animals. Participants raised concerns that these new technologies can be abused if they continue to be directed to profits instead of human welfare. Also discussed was the issue of intellectual property and

patenting of living organisms: a delegate from Papua New Guinea related the story of a remote tribe who consented to give blood samples to an American researcher whose institute then claimed exclusive ownership of their genetic material. Other areas of concern were the motive of companies that provide expensive cures rather than relatively inexpensive preventative methods, and the violation of safety regulations by companies operating in developing countries.

Playing the natural resources vs. profits game

Participants in this workshop on the environmental effects of profit seeking began with a few tangible objects: paper (representing natural resources) and scissors and rulers (tools and technology). The purpose of this game was to produce certain shapes of paper, which were worth various amounts of money.

The participants simulated trade by acting as countries and companies with certain privileges, but also disadvantages. Even on this small level, the group of individuals who won (earned the most money) were the ones who stole, cheated and were cruel to other groups. As one participant put it, "It is curious how we were caught up in making money without knowing why. At the end it was incredibly meaningless."

Youth put forward environmental alternatives

A few of the many recommendations that came out of the day's environmental workshops.

We should address environmental issues and think about what legacy we are leaving. • All communities and regions must have equal opportunity to provide for social, economic, and environmental needs. • Governments should increase funding for education and public transit. • There should be more international laws and legislation to preserve the environment. • APEC should be subject to international laws governed by the United Nations. • There should be other organizations that monitor APEC. • Universal regulations for biotechnological products and cloning should be implemented. • We should avoid consumerism and boycott corporate products. • We need to avoid being cynical and pessimistic: although there are no easy answers, and no one thing works alone, change is possible.

Compiled from reporting by Jana Hanova, 17, Burnaby; Camille Nanayan, 16, Burnaby; Margaret Chung, 17, Vancouver; Kathryn Minichiello, 16, Burnaby; Alfred Pechisker, 15, Vancouver; Ben Jackson, 17, Newfoundland; and the steering committee.

Delegate profile: Jorge Tenreiro, 16, Monterrey, Mexico

by Aman Dhaliwal, 17, Surrey

Jorge Tenreiro heard about the Youth Forum through an e-mail received by his school principal. With his strong humanitarian beliefs, there was no surprise that Tenreiro showed interest in representing his country at the Vancouver Youth Forum of the People's Summit on APEC.

So far, Tenreiro has found the conference to be very interesting. "I was fortunate enough to meet so many people from a wide variety of cultures," he said, adding that some were countries he had never heard of, showing the importance of education.

Tenreiro said he particularly enjoyed guest speaker David Orchard, because "he gave many examples that hit close to home." Tying his own country's experience to the larger APEC agenda, Tenreiro said "The Zapatista rebellion is only one example of what can happen in Mexico if human rights continue to be violated."

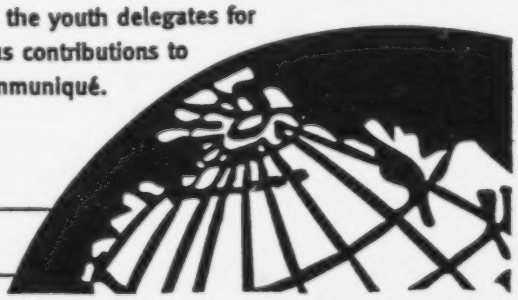
Tenreiro hopes to bring home some of the valuable things he has learned at the Youth Forum. "I got a lot of brochures and took notes during each workshop I attended," he said, noting that he plans to educate his peers with the knowledge he has gained.

Jorge says he is interested in keeping in touch with all the friends he made at the conference. People like Jorge ensure youth voices are represented. We are happy to see him here!

The Youth Forum will end tomorrow with a final plenary, closing ceremonies, a keynote address by Member of Parliament Libby Davies, and a cultural show.

Remarks from the closing ceremonies, together with all the Daily Communiqués from the Youth Forum, can be seen on the People's Summit on APEC's virtual summit at www.vcn.bc.ca/summit. The Youth Forum website is at www.islandnet.com/vglobe/codev/codev1.html.

Thanks to all the youth delegates for their generous contributions to the Daily Communiqué.



1997 People's Summit on APEC
Daily Summit Communiqué, Issue 5 [electronic version only]
Youth Forum
Tuesday, November 11, 1997

YOUTH FORUM COMES TO AN END

After five days, 45 workshops, 9 guest speakers, and a lot of discussion and debate, the Youth Forum has come to an end.

Delegates began their last day with a closing plenary where a long list of recommendations coming out of the workshops were discussed and debated. In particular, youth engaged in a lively debate about the stand they would take on child labour: while some youth called for an outright ban, most felt the Forum's recommendation on the issue should recognize that many children in impoverished countries had to work, and that improvements were a better first step. Among the calls for change were a ban on forced labour, minimum age requirements, higher wages, better working conditions, improved safety, and higher family incomes so children do not have to work. After reaching consensus on mandatory universal education and the need for product labelling, the plenary referred the issue to a group for further discussion.

Ten delegates from the Youth Forum will take the group's calls for action to the People's Summit on APEC, which runs November 17 to 24. The complete listing of Youth Forum recommendations can be obtained from Co-Development Canada, the organizers of the Youth Forum. Contact Co-Development Canada at 205 - 2929 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5N 4C8, tel: (604) 708-1495, fax: 708-1497, e-mail: codev@web.net

Delegates then observed a minute of silence in recognition of Remembrance Day, a national holiday in Canada. In introducing the yearly ritual, forum coordinator Rana Ghose expanded the traditional meaning to include those involved in current conflicts around the world.

GUEST SPEAKERS: RAYMOND CHAN AND LIBBY DAVIES

Youth delegates then heard from Raymond Chan, a Liberal Member of Parliament from Richmond BC and Canada's Secretary of State to the Asia Pacific.

Chan outlined Canada's history in the Asia Pacific, touching on the World War II, foreign aid and NGO-building in more recent years, and Canada's current role as chair and host of APEC. Chan stressed Canada's leadership role in technology, and how "Canada can help (developing nations) build a more efficient society."

Chan's speech focussed his speech on democracy, foreign aid, human rights and environment goals. For example, Chan outlined how APEC brought about the Asean Regional Forum, where countries such as Malaysia, the Philippines, Viet Nam and Indonesia talk about security issues, something Chan said helps to prevent war in the Asia Pacific. "APEC creates dialogue among these countries," said Chan.

Chan also touched on the economic agenda of APEC, telling the assembled youth that the meetings help developing countries' economic goals, and that "The markets in the Asia Pacific provide an opportunity for jobs for Canadians."

Chan's speech was followed by a lively question and answer period with the youth delegates. Answering to claims of the economic exploitation, Chan said "You cannot blame the exploitation on APEC – it was already there," and said that APEC is about economic development. Responding to environmental concerns, Chan pointed out that it is very difficult for countries that have been industrialized for a hundred years, and who created most of the world's environmental problems, to call for standards from countries trying to develop their economies through industrialization. On the issue of labour concerns being left out of APEC, Chan said that is not what APEC is about, and that there are other forums for that dialogue.

"I was as sceptical when I first participated in the APEC meetings in 1993," said Chan, who mentioned his history as a human rights activist, but said he found that through APEC a lot of positive gains could be made.

Still, the youth continued to ask Chan tough questions, passing the speech's allotted time period before reaching even a portion of the raised hands. One delegate, who questioned APEC countries' ability to veto a topic, told Chan "If I come home six hours late, I can't just say 'I'm choosing not to discuss that issue.'" When Chan pointed out that countries like Indonesia are part of a dialogue for the first time, and that "nothing can be done when a country is closed," a delegate interjected with "You could stop selling them arms." After Chan repeatedly said "we don't sell them guns," a group of delegates agreed to get together to research Canada's arms trade to Indonesia and get back to Chan. At one point, when a delegate said it was hypocritical to talk about developing countries' human rights violations without talking about Canada's, Chan said, "I don't think you're being fair to me... How do you know that I don't address human rights issues in Canada?"

The dialogue continued, and though polite, included some raised voices and finger pointing by Chan. In closing, Chan said it is simple to just be a human rights activist and demonstrate on the street, and that it is important to "remind us to put our foot to the fire" on these issues, but there is no "simple solution."

In the opening of her address, Libby Davies, NDP Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, said "I want to go to great lengths to separate myself from Mr. Chan." Davies described herself as "an activist – not a politician" and outlined her history 10 working in the Downtown Eastside from age 19, and her subsequent 11 years fighting for social justice issues on Vancouver's City Council.

Like Chan, Davies tied her speech to Remembrance Day, and spoke of the "great hope" around the world following the end of World War II and the creation of the United Nations, noting that it was a time where one could believe that "economies would serve people." "In the last 50 years the role of nations has vastly changed," said Davies. While in the past a nation served the needs of its people through programs like education, health care and addressing poverty, Davies said today nations serve the economy, corporations, and trade.

The real purpose of APEC is to ensure that transnational corporations in North America can pursue profits with "unfettered access" to markets, said Davies, calling the exercise a "race to the bottom" for people. Davies said all other issue have been forced off the table. Calling Chan "dead wrong" on putting off issues like labour to other forums, Davies said "You cannot talk about trade without talking about people."

Davies' question and answer period was more amicable, but also lively. Delegates discussed with Davies the choice between trying to change the APEC agenda, which one delegate called "fostering illusions," versus an outright call to end APEC. Davies said

the question of whether "to engage or not" has been a contentious issue for activists since the beginning, and that it will continue to be debated at the People's Summit. "My own personal opinion," said Davies, "is that we should say no."

Davies ended by telling youth that the APEC meetings are "an incredible time for activists to learn from each other and build a sense of strength." Talking to Raymond Chan, said Davies, was worthwhile because the minister saw young people who are organizing, communicating in a wider network, politically concerned and knowledgeable, and who "in fact, know more than he does on some of these issues." Davies said the youth delegates should continue to build on the success of activists throughout history, mentioning the anti-nuclear weapons movement and changes in South Africa, where "people made the difference."

"When we unite in our struggles," said Davies, "there is tremendous strength."

CLOSING ADDRESS - REBEKA TABOBONDUNG, 21, WASAUKSING FIRST NATION (ONTARIO)

We talked about a lot of complex issues, issues like globalization and what this means, or what it could mean, problems with the environment, a problem that no matter where we live in the world affects every single one of us. We talked about what it is like to be youth living in our countries, and I think we came to realize that we are not all that different from each other. We all feel pain and happiness, and we all care about our futures and the future of Mother Earth.

And we talked about APEC, and we tried really hard to understand what it means and how it affects our lives. And we learned a lot that we never knew before. Like child labour and human rights, and what it means to live in a democratic or non-democratic country. We voiced issues that are of concern to us and we shared our stories.

I think it is really important, what we've been doing for the past five days. Talking, questioning, trying to understand APEC and other trade agreements that seem so out of our control. And rightfully so... because they are. The leaders of our countries get together all the time. They get to discuss their plans and talk about ways to implement them. How often do the youth of our counties get the chance to come together to talk?

This is why this week is so important. We have a lot of important things to say to our leaders. We have a lot of recommendations that we feel must be included in APEC. We are here to tell our leaders this. And if they are responsible leaders, they should listen to us, because very soon we will be the leaders of the world.

By the looks of things, I think we as youth need to take responsibility and start educating our educators. Our voices need to be heard. And our work doesn't have to end when this conference is over and we all go home. We can keep in touch with each other. We can go back to our schools and ask our teachers about APEC, and if they don't know, we can do presentations, we can pressure our political leaders and demand that they listen to us. We can go to protests and marches and bring our friends and families, we can write letters and poems, join theatre groups, get involved in our communities.

It may seem like these actions won't have much of an impact compared to the actions and decisions made in the APEC summit. But I believe every action we take, no mater how big or small, does have an impact.

END

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AGAINST APEC

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

issue 6

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1997

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The 2nd International Women's Conference Against APEC opened today with 500 delegates packing the BC Room of the Plaza of Nations to hear a host of speakers from across the Asia-Pacific.

The delegates, about 100 of whom come from outside Canada, began the day with an opening prayer and welcome from Harriet Nahanee, followed by a welcome from Joan Grant Cummings of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women (NAC Canada), organizers of the women's conference.

A message of solidarity was then heard by the delegates, via videotape, from Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of an oppositional party to the military dictatorship in Burma. Kyi reaffirmed one of the most basic understandings of the audience, almost all of whom were women: that you cannot divorce the internal affairs of a country from its economic affairs. "There cannot be real economic progress without democracy," said Kyi, speaking of the situation in Burma, which includes her own house arrest, but touching on something noted throughout the day as being relevant for women in all countries.

Jeanette Armstrong, an artist, activist and teacher from the Okanagan Nation (north of Vancouver), was the day's keynote speaker. Armstrong's address touched on a number of issues, beginning with an understanding of communicating beyond the intellectual to the spiritual level. Armstrong set out how the New World Order has created the conditions where the people at the bottom are Indigenous People, particularly women. Armstrong's address also touched on specific areas, such as poverty, labour and the environment.

The Women's Conference opening plenary was organized into four main themes: the subject of women and labour was introduced by Alicia Sepulveda of the Telecommunications Workers Union in Mexico, human rights was the focus of a speech by Yayori Matsui, Director of the Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre, and the environmental impacts of APEC and other trade agendas was outlined by Sarojeni Rengam of the Pesticide Action Network in Malaysia.

In the fourth theme, economic and social development, Sunera Thobani made the point that the women's forum is the only People's Summit event that has taken a clear position in opposition to APEC. Thobani said engaging in the process or creating side agreements will not effectively counter APEC's devastating impact. "We really have to think about what this can accomplish."

As past-president of NAC-Canada, Thobani has heard from women all over the world that things are getting worse. "These are not accidental outcomes," said Thobani, explaining that the APEC agenda itself is based on the oppression of women. "Are we calling for an inclusion in the globalization agenda," Thobani asked the assembled delegates, "or are we calling for a transformation?"

> "Until the last woman is free from the shackles of poverty and oppression... none of us can be free."
>
> – Sunera Thobani

Thobani also called on delegates to beware the intensification of divisions between North and South. "Until the last woman is free from the shackles of poverty and oppression... none of us can be free," said Thobani to resounding applause from the audience. Thobani also cautioned against the North solely looking south for instances of human rights abuses. In Canada, First Nations women, single mothers, the homeless, domestic workers, migrant workers "will tell you about human rights violations," said Thobani, who noted the protests against Indonesia and China's leaders, but said she was "astounded" no one has targeted Bill Clinton or Jean Chretien.

Thobani ended by calling women to act on the strategies and actions coming out of the Women's Conference. "We can come up with the best policies in the world," said Thobani, but they will be meaningless unless women can mobilize. "That is my number one priority."

Women's Conference workshops

Upon registration, delegates to Women's Conference signed up for one of 13 workshops. The workshops, which met for the afternoon and were facilitated by a number of resource women from outside Canada, included: Rise of the Right/the Disappeared; Heterosexism/Homophobia; Export Processing Zones/ Maquilladoras; Pay Equity/Poverty; Indigenous Peoples' Rights; Globalization; Environments for Women; Mega Development Projects/Aquaculture; Sex Trafficking; Women's Health; Child Labour/Informal Sector; Migrant Workers; and Violence Against Women.

Mid-day press conference standing room only

The Women's Conference press conference, held at noon on Monday, drew a large group of journalists from TV, radio, newspapers and magazines, from the mainstream media and the altemative press.

Speaking at the press conference were: Jeanette Armstrong, the conference's keynote speaker; Tania Suarez of the Zapatista Front for National Liberation in Mexico; Sarojini Rengam of the Pesticide Action Network in Malaysia, Yayori Matsui, journalist and director of the Asia-Japan Women's Resoruce Centre, and Cheung Lai Har, of the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade unions. Conference organizer Nandita Sharma also answered questions from the press about the Women's Conference and the People's Summit.

Reporters questions included engaging or not engaging with the APEC process, and the Women's Conference stand in clear opposition to APEC.

While there will not be another press conference as part of the Women's Conference, a media advisory will be released after the final plenary to outline the action plan. The 1997 People's Summit on APEC will hold daily press conferences beginning November 19.

Conference workshop highlights

EXPORT PROCESSING ZONES/MAQUILLADORAS
by Sarah de Leeuw

Fittingly, it took place in the hall.

The Export Processing Zones and Maquilladora workshop led to a roomful of ideas. Resource women Cecilia V. Tuico from the Phillipine Worker's Assistance Centre and Lyna Yanz, also from the Philippines, spoke on labour atrocities in global free trade zones.

Tuico discussed how tax incentives, inexpensive labour and assurances of non-unionized workers attract multi-nationals to the Philippines and other countries around the world.

they asked women to inform consumers: for instance, that the $100 Barbie Mini-Van retailing in Canada is made by women paid less than $45 a week

"We try to organize workers. Often they are not aware of their rights. We help them by giving legal assistance and also holding seminars," Tuico explained of her organization. She stressed that in many instances multi-nationals are not following country law – such as the right of workers to unionize – but the workers are not aware of the law, so are not mobilizing.

"Part of the incentive," said Tuico, "is cheap, docile labourers." She went on to say that industrialization is the desire of her country's government, and it sees the export processing zones as central to this end.

Yanz began her discussion by pointing out the work being done in countries around the world, by local people, against the Maquilladora zones. Don't, she reminded participants, get the idea all workers in these zones "are just docile workers." Yanz also pointed out figures indicating one million

workers are working in Maquilladora zones in Mexico alone.

"These [areas] are major strategies in developing economies," said Yanz. "It used to be [primarily] U.S. capital, but increasingly it's becoming Asian, from places like Japan, Taiwan, and Korea."

According to Yanz and Tuico, crimes include physical abuse of women, unpaid overtime work, underpaid work of all types, forced pregnancy tests, insistence on women not being able to talk to, or even smile to, their fellow workers, and many human rights violations.

Both resource women challenged delegates to work past boycotts: the jobs shouldn't necessarily go, but they must get better. The women also encouraged consumers to pressure companies to uphold human rights treaties, pay decent wages, and allow workers to unionize. They asked women to inform consumers: for instance, that the $100 Barbie Mini-Van retailing in Canada is made by women paid less than $45 a week. Finally, they caution that labels reading "Made in Canada/USA" might be assembled here, but constructed under poor working conditions abroad. Educating and organizing are other things women can do.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

by Lindsay Poaps

Marjorie Cohen and Lee Ying Chuen were resource people for the Economic and Social Development Workshop. Cohen, who works as the head of Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University near Vancouver, discussed how the economic and financial framework being created by big business and neo-conservative governments and institutions are widening the gap between rich and poor throughout the APEC region. "This provides a view of the world in which the interests of the powerful are defined as necessary, while the demands of the poor appear as greed," said Cohen.

In calling for a critical economic analysis, Cohen advocated economic pluralism – the need for not just one, but many different strategies to address globalization. She suggested the creation of an international institute to monitor the movement of capital around the world, and to discipline corporations.

Lee Ying Chuen focused on the issues facing sweatshop workers in China. There are free trade zones in China that have few safety and environmental regulations, said Chuen. What protections do exist are being further downgraded or dismantled. Chuen also warned about the increase in occupational deaths among female workers in China.

The dialogue in the sessions was animated, with participants sharing their diverse experiences. There were many ideas and concrete strategies, including developing networks and having an international education campaign on trade agreements.

MEGA DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS/AQUACULTURE

by Carolyn Whittaker

The workshop session was opened by Melissa Benollo-Morales from the Philippines and Hushi Khabir from Bangladesh.

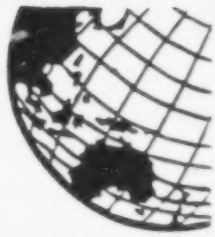
Morales, who works for the Center for Environmental Concerns in the Philippines, covered a wide range of issues affecting her country, beginning with the impact that APEC has on the mining sector through promoting deregulation, privatization and free trade.

Morales explained that foreign mining companies are given incentives to explore in the Philippines, such as easement, water and timber rights. Local communities, particularly Aboriginal people living in forested areas, are displaced, forests are harvested at tremendous rates and remaining communities have limited access to resources such as forest, land and water.

According to Khabir, "individual rights are superseded to encourage investment"

According to Morales, only 6 million hectares of forest remain in the Philippines, and under the new mining act the 137 applicants currently asking for exploration rights could each be granted up to 81,000 ha – 50 per cent of the remaining forest and one-third of the country's land base. Countries leading in the mining exploration are Australia, Canada and the US.

Hushi Khabir, who works with landless peasants in Bangladesh, emphasized the importance of the aquaculture/agriculture problem in her country, which is fertile and traditionally agriculture-based, particularly



the southern area, where 80 per cent of the population is rural and dependent on agriculture.

International pressure for globalization of the economy, such as that exerted by the World Bank (specifically, FAO projects and the economic push for foreign currency), have resulted in the emergence of the shrimp/tiger prawn farming industry in Bangladesh. According to Khabir, "individual rights are superseded to encourage investment," with other impacts such as human rights being violated when production is threatened, environments degraded by farming methods involving salination of land and water, forests lost and other species displaced.

General discussion followed, and a number of questions were raised: Where is the power of governments? Can we develop and make alternative policies at the national level? If GDP is not an appropriate means of measuring a country's growth, what is? How do shifts in policy and power work, and why do they happen? Closing the session, Sunera Thobani posed the following to take into today's action plan: What do we want to change, how can we take that forward and where do we start from?

TUESDAY'S AGENDA:

Focusing the Action Plan

Conference organizers spent Monday night sorting through the discussion and outcomes of the 13 workshop sessions, and identified key issues for discussion in workshops today.

Among the issues identified for developing the action plan was the need for a workshop on the question of engagement. The workshop will analyze the possible outcomes of engaging or not engaging, and examine the source of different positions.

Other workshops include: consumer campaigns and boycotts; children's rights (including child labour and sex trafficking); the question of a borderless world and challenging nation-state structures; challenging the hyper-mobility of capital, considering the creation of regulatory bodies and changing economic systems; and building on mobilizing and organizing.

"One of the goals of the women's conference was to strengthen an international women's movement," said Nandita Sharma, an organizer at the Women's Conference. Sharma hopes the workshops outlined for today's afternoon sessions will help focus the strategies behind that building.

Sharma called the opening day of the Women's Conference a huge success. "It surpassed all of our expectations," said Sharma. "What the turnout and interest in issues showed is that women are really hungry for an activist-based women's movement."

"One of the biggest historical mistakes we can make," said Sharma, "is to ignore it." In Sharma's view, that includes activist women tackling difficult positions, and tackling APEC head on, something she looks forward to hearing more about through the workshops and final plenary, which will try to reach a consensus on the Women's Conference action plan.

What's up with the People's Summit?

Summit events for today include the Women's Conference and the opening of the World Peasant Round Table. Tomorrow's events include the media forum, the opening of the education/research forum, and the People's Summit opening ceremonies, from 7 to 10 pm in Enterprise Hall at the Plaza of Nations. People's Summit programmes will be available late today at the Plaza of Nations, or can be picked up at registration beginning at 8 am in Enterprise Hall. The summit will continue to November 24.

What's up with the Daily Communiqué?

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC publishes daily communiqués on the proceedings of the various events at the summit. It appears as a printed version for delegates on-site, and allows people from around the world to follow the summit on the Internet — www.vcn.bc.ca/summit.

The communiqué is written by forum participants and volunteer reporters, and material is not vetted by the People's Summit for content, so the perspectives expressed remain those of the writers.

Volunteer writers are needed: please call Nadene Rehnby or Dirk Van Stralen at 873-6399, or look for communiqué badge-holders at the Plaza of Nations.

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

issue 7

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1997

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE ACTION PLAN

The 2nd International Women's Conference Against APEC finished yesterday with a day devoted to building strategies and action plans.

The morning began with prayer and welcome, followed by a plenary session where Monday's workshops reported back on their discussions and recommendations. Speakers then addressed strategies around the conference's main themes: labour, human rights, the environment, and economic and social development.

Building on the work of yesterday's workshops, 10 new areas of discussion and strategy-building were held in the afternoon. At a plenary report-back, the workshops provided input to the call for action, to be released today. Closing ceremonies included an engaging send-off for the 1998 Women's Conference in Malaysia.

International speakers cover a range of women's issues

by Sarah de Leeuw and Carolyn Whittaker

"No thanks APEC, no merci!" – the statement depicted on a banner presented by speaker Bella Galhos from the East Timor Action Network in Canada – best sums up the main theme of Women's Conference speakers who addressed yesterday's strategy session.

Cheung Lai-ha from the Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions, speaking on labour through a translator, began the morning speakers' session. "Government is focusing on high growth sectors," said Lai-ha. "It ignores the effects on women and also plans to employ huge numbers of migrant workers."

Lai-ha said "the business sector really runs Hong Kong. [It] cries out for wage suppression in the name of developing the economy." The Provisional Legislative Council calls for a suppression of wage increases against inflation and has moved to repeal labour laws protecting the rights of workers.

Lai-ha stressed that "our next important act is to educate and organize woman to fight for our rights."

In a passionate speech on human rights violations, Bella Galhos of East Timor told the audience "In the past 23 years, one-third of my people have died, and the murder, rape and torture continue."

Galhos condemned "grand rhetorical speeches about human rights." She does not believe that trade allows dialogue. "APEC is another forum where General Suharto will ignore the East Timorese people. They will be sacrificed in the name of economic development. Suharto will insist if Canada wants to trade with Indonesia, Canada must ignore the human rights violations of his country."

"There is no freedom of expression or ideas" in her country, said Galhos. She ended her speech with a song because "to express our struggle, we do it through song."

"APEC is another forum where General Suharto will ignore the East Timorese people. They will be sacrificed in the name of economic development."
– Bella Galhos, East Timor

Speaking on the environment, Khushi Khabir from Bangladesh said, "protection of the environment is not a luxury, and women must lead in the movement."

"In my culture, environment encompasses more than the physical environment," explained Khabir. "It includes family relationships, social relationships and relationships with nature." Khabir explained that "women were the nurturers of the family, and the nurturers of the land the family was living on," but that under the new agenda what women grow and how they grow it "is completely taken over by the market."

Khabir said the problems affecting all people included loss of biodiversity, environmental degradation, displacement of people, lack of access to resources such as water and pollution, and introduction of exotic species. And, as Khabir explained, there is a domino effect to the new agenda: "Foreign fish need foreign food," causing more environmental degradation to her country.

Khabir's strategies focused on widening the understanding of the global situation, and building local resistance and alternatives that do not feed international markets. To women outside Bangladesh, Khabir reiterated the importance of building strong movements as a means of supporting women in her country.

Tania Suarez of the Zapatista Liberation Front in Mexico concluded the morning strategy speakers' session with a heartfelt and inspiring call to action. "This was my dream, and now it's a reality" said Suarez. "We're all here together."

Suarez outlined a number of issues that connect women in Mexico to women's struggles in many other countries: the oppression of women, the harmful and unknown side effects of birth control, ecological degradation, child undernourishment, the rise of tuberculosis, and women's deaths from childbirth and cancer. Suarez then spoke of the resistance in Mexico, particularly the Zapatista women, inside and outside the struggle, "the widows, the warriors, the rebels."

"Us, the women," said Suarez, "we stand up and survive. Every day we are on our feet." Telling the assembled delegates "you're my sisters now," Suarez called for women to "listen to one another about differences, and stick together."

DOMESTIC WORKERS November 15 and 16, 1997

The 4th Annual INTERCEDE Domestic Workers Conference was held November 15 and 16. The conference was organized locally by the Vancouver Committee for Domestic Workers' and Caregivers' Rights, and held at the Hospital Employees' Union in Vancouver.

"It was very productive," said Cenen Bagon, one of the conference organizers. "The conference was educational, and the conversations very encouraging." The 40 domestic workers, together with five advocates, used popular education and discussion to build on the work of past conferences. Included in the discussions were how domestic workers' lives are affected by cutbacks, and how "they are pushed out of their countries because of the economic conditions." The delegates also discussed how APEC will affect domestic workers.

A number of resolutions came out of the Domestic Workers Conference, including a resolution to continue to lobby the Canadian government to change its immgration policy so that domestic workers can enter the country as landed immgrants under the point system. Under the current system, domestic workers do not receive the same points as other workers. "If domestic wokers are good enough to work here, they are good enough to stay," said Bagon. "They should be treated like any other workers."

The delegates also agreed to push governments in the Asia Pacific to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families. The convention was adopted by the general assembly in December, 1990, but has received only nine of the 20 signatories required to have it ratified. Bagon pointed out that it is the countries that receive domestic workers – like Canada and the US – that are refusing to sign.

Delegates resolved to ask the Women's Conference and the People's Summit on APEC to support these resolutions, and include them in their calls for action.

The delegates, most of whom work in BC, also had local successes to celebrate: provincial government lobbying in BC led to changes to the Employment Standards Act, including minimum wages for domestic workers, hours of work changes, and the creation of a central registry for employers. The delegates will continue to work to see that those changes are enforced.

Highlights from the Women's Conference workshops

The **research** workshop report-back included the need to continue communication, including using and improving existing networks, and a call for an international coordinating body to build on the first two Women's Conferences.

The **popular theatre** workshop reported back with a lively demonstration of their consensus. "We will not engage in APEC in any form, including social clauses," declared the group, using music, dance and performance to make their message clear. The group called for the coordination of national and international popular theatre campaigns, and building resistance through a world strike.

Measures put forward by the workshop on **regulating and redirecting capital** included debunking the myth of corporate social responsibility, and developing alternatives structures such as co-ops, credit unions and barter systems. The group's call for community economic development made clear that "nothing short of the feminist revolution will lead to the deregulation or redistribution of capital."

The **Indigenous Peoples** workshop brought forward a number of detailed resolutions, including recognizing intellectual property rights, protecting women and children from violence, and developing culturally-appropriate programs. Broad themes included self-determination, equal representation, and land issues, including a call to keep Aboriginal land out of trade agreements.

In the report-back on the **labour movement** workshop, participants acknowledged the historic role of unions in fighting for social justice, and called for reaching out to youth, supporting migrant workers, developing gender-sensitivity in union programs, and breaking down barriers to women in union leadership positions. The workshop reported that "organizing in non-traditional sectors is a must."

The **charter yes, charter no?** workshop included lively debate on the merits of engaging or not engaging in structures such as APEC: potential damage in engaging or not engaging, what constitutes "engagement," whether there is room for both responses, how to mitigate conditions during the fightback, the difference in responses between North and South, divide-and-conquer strategies against social movements, and 'If we don't want APEC, what do we want?' The workshop recommended re-affirming and building on the position coming out of last year's conference in Manila, and noted the group's consensus in fighting for workers' and human rights, regardless of the question of engagement with APEC.

The workshop on **consumer campaigns** called for pressure on corporate accountability, mobilizing through education, acting from the perspectives of the workers involved (not calling boycotts unless asked), the right to know the conditions under which products are made, and the promotion of incentives for corporations.

The **food and agriculture** workshop reported back on access to food, land use, trade inequalities and other issues summed up as a call to "feed the family and trade the leftovers." The group called for "breast-feeding as a model for the kind of food system we want," and asked that countries "stop treating our soil like dirt." The group stated that food and agriculture should not be part of trade agreements.

The workshop that addressed the **environment, mega development, and aquaculture** examined a number of environmental issues from countries around the Asia Pacific. The group called for activists to build alliances, educate workers, and destroy the myth of APEC and jobs, a myth that destroys the environment.

The range of strategies coming out of the **children's rights** workshop included creating centres for children, putting more money into education, laws to prosecute sex tourists, and alternative means of income for families.

The delegates then heard from members of the **youth caucus**, who recognized the work of women that came before them, and called for "mothers and daughters to have faith in your daughters."

"It's okay to pass the torch," said a youth delegate, "because we've got the fire."

The **disability caucus** of the Women's Conference addressed a number of issues affecting women with disabilities, and put forward recommendations for organizers, including: recognizing who is not at the organizing sessions (and considering how energy levels and transportation problems affect the participation of disabled women); accessibility, including wheelchair-accessible events; sensitivity training for workers and

volunteers; clear information; considering quiet rooms; providing ASL signers and other devices; refraining from the use of scents and perfumes; asking women with disabilities about potential needs; and being pro-active.

Peasant Round Table

The Peasant Round Table Discussion – the Mid-Term Assessment of GATT-Uruguay Round's Impact on Agriculture and Farmers – opened Tuesday, and will continue today.

The Round Table is an international forum for peasant movements, NGOs and other grassroots organizations to exchange views regarding their own experiences since GATT-UR's liberalized trade regime took effect in 1994.

The Peasant Round Table will report its findings in tomorrow's communiqué.

programme change: Please note the Peasant Round Table is now being held in the Tillicum Room at Club Nations.

Join the drafting group

Several organizations from various international networks expressed interest in being part of a group to draft a letter or statement that organizations and individuals at the Summit can sign on to.

Most issue forums held this week plan to release statements and action plans opposing trade liberalization and APEC. Can groups and organizations attending the Summit draft a document that captures our common opposition to trade liberalization?

Can we identify campaigns and strategies that organizations can make priorities for joint work in the coming year, leading up to The People's Summit, Malaysia, 1998?

These are some of the ideas that can be explored by the drafting group.

A call has already gone out on the APEC list-serve inviting interested individuals and organizations attending the Summit to meet Wednesday, November 19th, in the Computer Centre, Plaza of Nations at the adjournment of the evening program (approximately 9:30 pm).

The group that gathers will identify a process and an agenda for working on a joint statement during the Summit.

If you can't attend, read the daily communiqué for notice of subsequent meetings. There will be time during the Summit on Saturday and Sunday for reports back from the drafting committee and discussion.

We look forward to your contributions.

Canadian Host Committee meets daily

After months of planning, the Canadian Host Committee continues to meet daily, to resolve last minute details concerning program, process, march and rally, working with People's Secretariat staff to keep the Summit running smoothly. Meetings occur daily at 7:30 am, at the Plaza of Nations. The host committee includes representatives from the national and Vancouver-based groups that have helped to organize the People's Summit.

Get connected to the Virtual Summit

The Virtual People's Summit moves into the Plaza of Nations today with a web café in Enterprise Hall. The Virtual Summit includes up-to-date information about activities of the Summit, including the daily communiqué, articles of interest from on-line discussions, the Summit daily calendar of events, and updates on other actions and organizing in opposition to APEC.

On-line workshops include poverty, human rights, women and Indigenous Peoples.

Visit the Virtual Summit at the web café, or on-line at http://www.vcn.bc.ca/summit

What's up with the Daily Communiqué?

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC publishes daily communiqués on the proceedings of Summit events. It appears as a printed version for delegates on-site, and goes out to the media. People from around the world follow the Summit through communiqués sent out on the listserve (e-mail majordomo@list.web.net with the message: subscribe apecforum-1) and posted to the Virtual Summit website (www.vcn.bc.ca/summit).

The communiqué is written by forum participants and volunteer reporters, and material is not vetted by the People's Summit for content, so the perspectives expressed remain those of the writers.

Volunteer writers are needed: please call Nadene Rehnby or Dirk Van Stralen at 873-6399, or look for communiqué badge-holders at the Plaza of Nations.

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

issue 8

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1997

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

OPENING CEREMONIES

Dancing as the sun goes down

by Ven Neralla and Lara Nettelfield

Bet they didn't do the Round Dance at the APEC Senior Officials' dinner at Seasons in the Garden.

Seven hundred and fifty people from over 25 countries joined hands to officially kick off the 1997 People's Summit on APEC at the Plaza of Nations in Vancouver, British Columbia. While officials dined, a gathering of activists and advocates convened to present an alternative voice to the fifth annual APEC Economic Leaders Summit.

"We need a recognition that these agreements are unsustainable unless human values are a part of the equation."

– Bob White
Canadian Labour Congress

Peasant and migrant workers' organizations, representatives from human rights and environmental groups will be meeting over the next five days to consider their strategies to ensure that they're not left out of the ongoing dialogue in the Asia-Pacific Region.

In the tradition of previous People's Summits in Manila and Osaka, speakers throughout the day set the tone for the remainder of the week by stressing themes such as people-centred development and opposition to societies based on market-driven values.

"There's no place for labour and civil society" on the APEC agenda, said Bob White, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, at a press conference earlier that day. "There must be a change of mind set," said White. "We need a recognition that these agreements are unsustainable unless human values are a part of the equation."

The keynote speaker for the opening ceremonies, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize laureate José Ramos-Horta, stressed that trade issues are inextricably linked to human rights. Horta received the prize for his work on East Timor.

Another opening ceremonies speaker, Maude Barlow, national chairperson for the Council of Canadians, said: We come together to tell each other our stories. We come together to share our visions. We come together to illustrate how corporate rule is replacing democracy.

Other highlights of the evening included a performance by the Old Fogies, a group of young singers, and an address by Irene Fernandez, a Malaysian activist who is on trial in her country for her recent efforts to expose the miserable conditions of migrant labourers.

The problems of migrant workers are but one of the effects of globalization, said Fernandez. Economic growth in her part of the world means shrinking rights.

"We dance as the sun goes down," a First Nations leader told conference participants as First Nations dancers performed the Round Dance near the end of the evening. But the audience hoped the sun was rising to shed some light on issues APEC has kept in the dark.

Open Markets, Open Media?

by Michael Decaucelf

"We are committed to strengthening civil society in Canada and around the world." So said Bronwyn Drainie, Vice-Chair of the Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society, as she opened the *"Open Markets, Open Media"* symposium. Designed to examine the relationship between trade and free media in the Asia Pacific region, and to develop policy options to advance free media, the event was attended by a

strong cross-section of journalists, educators, trade unionists and NGO representatives from both North and South.

John Cruikshank, editor-in-chief of the *Vancouver Sun*, moderated the opening plenary that asked the question: "Is trade liberalization leading to more open and independent media in Asia-Pacific nations?" Three southern journalists – Andreas Harsono from Indonesia, Dai Qing from China and Raymundo Rive-Palacios from Mexico – walked delegates through a history of free speech in their respective countries. Each spoke of the increasing inability for journalists to report on issues of their choice. In Mexico, for instance, more journalists have been subject to violence than ever before. They were, however, all optimistic that there was a role for the media to play in creating change. "Trade liberalization cannot automatically produce a social consciousness – that is our role" said Ms. Diang.

In the morning roundtables, small groups discussed a series of policy questions. Delegates spoke of existing free media models and how they could be applied in the Asia Pacific region. Discussion then shifted to the roles that different elements (trade liberalization, business and governments) played in supporting or suppressing a free media.

The afternoon session included an address by Frances D'Souza, who is executive director of Article 19 and has considerable experience working with human rights organizations. She spoke to the symposium about ways to work towards a liberated media and reminded the crowd that several international covenants exist that are not being properly monitored. "The policy framework exists to challenge these violations," she said. "We must ensure that they are."

"Dictatorships and single-party states crush dissidents," D'Souza reminded delegates, "and we must provide assistance."

D'Souza encouraged delegates to enter into partnerships with journalists in Southern nations. "Dictatorships and single-party states crush dissidents," she reminded delegates, "and we must provide assistance." By nature, treaties and conventions are broad in nature, she said, "and therefore there is a need for industrial nations to set the standards for other nations." She explained that these treaties are often open to misinterpretation and thus the need for superior precedents.

Governments hide behind the veil of national security to deny access of information to journalists "as a way to justify suppression," said D'Souza. She stressed the need to identify what exactly constitutes a security threat. "Threatened existence for a nation or territorial integrity violations are the *only* cause to withhold information under that pretext."

D'Souza finished her talk with the reason she believes that freedom of speech is a primary right: "Because without it, the ability to defend other rights is lost."

In the afternoon roundtables, participants talked about concrete actions that governments, business, and journalists can – and should – take to promote an independent media. Suggestions that came from this and the first roundtable were presented at a media conference at 6:00 Tuesday night (available on the Virtual Summit website at www.vcn.bc.ca/summit).

"Business is indifferent at best, hostile at worst to the ideals that Northern countries take for granted."

– Gerald Caplan, authour and political strategist

The afternoon plenary session was based on journalists' perspectives. Daisy Li, former president of the Hong Kong Journalist's Association, suggested that delegates are responsible for "providing information in a way that allows people meaningful input into discussions around trade." The emphasis throughout her presentation was grassroots involvement.

Kavi Chongkittavorn is the chief editor of *the Nation* in Bangkok and envies Canadian ideals on the issue of free speech: "In Thailand we can only dream of such freedoms." He went on to encourage delegates to engage in discussions with APEC and suggested that Canadians, as the host country, should take the lead. "In my country, newspapers cannot criticize the king, but they have taken on the role of the opposition government." Chongkittavorn explained that the Thai government has very

"You have to constantly fight for the freedom of the press. It is our duty."

– Kavi Chongkittavorn, Editor, *The Nation*

"thin skin" and therefore bows quickly to public pressure, usually generated by the press. He concluded with a challenge to participants: "You have to constantly fight for the freedom of the press. It is our duty."

Canadian author, political strategist and educator Gerald Caplan rounded out the day's speakers. "We have accelerated the spread of free expression simply by being here today." He expanded on that notion by telling delegates that there were no other fora that brought together a group such as the one assembled at the People's Summit. "Business is indifferent at best, hostile at worst to the ideals that Northern countries take for granted." He then asked the question "Can businesses be pushed to undertake our ideals, even if for their own selfish purposes?" Caplan answered his own question by pointing out the full page ad Nike had taken out in Tuesday's *Globe and Mail*. In it, Nike felt the need to explain the benefit package afforded to its workers. "We need to begin discussions that will bring these people into our tent." He ended his speech, which was peppered with humour, on a more serious note; "We're cynical about business and government because we have the right to be."

ROUNDTABLE PROPOSALS

The following proposals were made by some of the participants to the symposium and were presented to the media at Tuesday's press conference:

- That APEC leaders recognize that freedom of expression and association are conditions for the expansion of trade
- That the expansion of these freedoms must appear on every APEC meeting agenda
- That APEC members report on the current condition of freedom of expression and association
- That APEC, as a body, commission an independent study by eminent persons on the relationship between the free flow of information and trade liberalization
- That civil society organizations (i.e. unions, religious organizations and other citizens groups) be involved in the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of free media conditions within APEC
- That the APEC Human Resources Working Group adopt a program of training journalists so as to improve professional media skills within APEC
- That APEC make all its documents, including negotiated texts, accessible to the media
- That APEC members formally address the issue of freedom of expression and the free flow of information on the Internet. According to a joint letter signed by a dozen members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange, many APEC nations have censored or are attempting to restrict Internet usage and contents.
- That a dialogue be started with the APEC Business Advisory Council about the relationship between free markets and free media and especially the role of the media in exposing corruption. (A Canadian currently chairs ABAC.)

Public Education and Research Forum

Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs makes the nature of APEC clear in a description on its website: "APEC's mandate can be summed up in a single phrase: APEC means business."

Larry Kuehn, director of research for the BC Teachers' Federation and a forum organizer, described the opening day of the Public Education and Research Forum as an important session to address the negative impact that strategy will have on public education.

The APEC agenda on education is focused around the Human Resources Working Group and the Education Forum, explained Kuehn, "which are explicitly working to have education mean training for business."

Colleges and universities are becoming increasingly influenced by corporate interests, with a primary focus on education at all levels to train people to be docile workers.

The forum included a full agenda for its 200 registrants. Beginning with a welcome by Canadian Teachers' Federation president Jan Eastman, the participants then moved into a plenary session. Sharan Burrow, vice-president of Education International, spoke

about education and trade union issues in the APEC region, and the need for governments to make education a priority. Norman Carnay of the Asian Students' Association outlined the impact of APEC and trade liberalization on education, and how colleges and universities are becoming increasingly influenced by corporate interests, with a primary focus on education at all levels to train people to be docile workers.

Participants then met in workshops to address education and globalization in various regions: Mexico and Chile, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Australia, Papua New Guinea and the South Pacific Islands, and Malaysia. Other workshops addressed the education struggle in Ontario, and the influence of corporations on education in the United States.

The research workshop built on previous work at other meetings to come up with an action plan. "There was a strong demand to build a researchers' network list, and a call for a commitment to provide documentation among network members," said John Price, a Vancouver labour researcher and conference organizer. Yesterday's workshop included more general discussion, leading to input in coming up with that plan, something the group will build on today. "It was quite a dynamic workshop," said Price of the mix of labour, NGO, academic and activist researchers. As a departure point, the group answered the question: How do we do research that will support an alternative agenda? The group's plan will include long-term research projects and serving popular education needs.

The delegates then met in panel discussions on education in the APEC process, and research issues. The afternoon plenary included the full delegation, who heard from Jane Kelsey on why New Zealanders are so firm in opposing APEC, from Hideo Totsuka, who stressed the need to discuss the social clause question, and who recognized the powerful potential for unions in fighting the APEC agenda, and Gauri Sreenivasan from Canada, who spoke on sustainable human development as a strategic concept.

Afternoon workshops continued to broaden the scope of the conferences themes, with nine further workshops:

- strategies for working together: the case of the Tri-national Coalition in Defense of Public Education
- developing countries in APEC – research papers
- youth and the future in APEC
- the impact of globalization on Maori pupils in mainstream secondary schools
- education issues in countries in Asia – a roundtable
- the social struggle and repression of the Teachers Union Movement in Mexico
- the influence of APEC and other international organizations on the content of public education
- teaching about globalization and global citizenship
- student organizing against APEC

The day ended with speaker Walden Bello, director of Focus on the Global South, who detailed APEC in the aftermath of the currency and stock crisis in Asia.

Kuehn said yesterday's meetings raised a number of important issues. For example, he points to a workshop that included delegates from the Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand. "Their perspective was one that very much sees the globalization of education as a threat to their cultural integrity," said Kuehn. The delegates specifically pointed to the technology and education aspect of the APEC agenda, and the homogenizing effect that it has.

The direction the APEC meetings are taking is that "the role of education should be to train in ways that support trade liberalization," said Kuehn. The effect of this, as described in one of the day's workshops by New Zealand academic Jane Kelsey, is to move education from a public good to a private good, something Kelsey called "taking the public out of education, and turning it into commodity."

"Their perspective was one that very much sees the globalization of education as a threat to their cultural integrity," said Kuehn.

In tomorrow's final day, the Public Education and Research Forum will meet in three sessions: the issue of where to go with the research agenda will be addressed in a morning session at the Plaza of Nations, while student groups meet at Simon Fraser University to discuss post-secondary issues, and the BC Teachers' Federation hosts a session on the strategies

that education unions can take in response to globalization and trade liberalization.

Outcomes from the two-day forum will be summarized in tomorrow's communiqué, and posted to the Virtual Summit website.

Peasant Roundtable

by Lalee Vicedo

'No to APEC' was the overwhelming consensus reached by different farmer representatives who participated in the two-day Peasant Roundtable Discussion of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC.

This position reflects the sentiments of farmer delegates from the Philippines, Indonesia, Bangladesh, India, Taiwan, England, Japan, Norway, South Africa, and Zimbabwe who flew in to Vancouver to discuss and share experiences on the impact of APEC, free trade and globalization on farmers' livelihood, food security, environment and biodiversity, and land reform.

"There is no free trade under a system ruled by international monopolies," said Francisco Pascual from the Philippines. "APEC and the WTO are instruments by which international monopolies can advance their neoliberal agenda. It is impossible to think about reforming APEC or the WTO to take on the demands of the peasants and other marginalized sectors."

The roundtable agreed to come up with a position paper to be reported to the Plenary Session on November 22 that will contain an analysis of the problems of peasants affected by globalization and free trade and a common agenda for action.

ASIA-PACIFIC PARLIAMENT ON APEC

Montreal, November 14 and 15

An Asia-Pacific People's Parliament on APEC, held on November 14 and 15 in Montreal as part of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC, brought together 250 delegates and resource people from 10 APEC countries to discuss the APEC agenda.

In an opening panel on November 14, speakers explained the links and the differences between APEC and NAFTA. "Not many people seem to know about APEC," said Parliament organizer Michel Lambert. "But people understand NAFTA." Speakers on the panel included Tony Tujan from the Philippines, Cai Chongguo, a human rights activist from China now organizing out of France, Ofelia Herrera Chavez of the Zapatista Front-Mexico, and Pierre Paquette, a trade unionist from Québec. Delegates also received a video address from Noam Chomsky recorded for the opening of the Parliament.

Workshops on Saturday covered: fair trade, national sovereignty and democratic development; social rights and human rights; right to land and food security; employment and workers' rights; and sustainable development and the environment.

At the end of Saturday, delegates met in a plenary to compose a working document to build on solidarity for people's empowerment. The Charter of People's Rights coming out of the Parliament integrates declarations from several People's Summit on APEC gatherings, as well as other struggles, to create one call for action. "While APEC is globalizing economies," said Lambert, "we hope to globalize solidarity."

The Charter of People's Rights will be submitted to the plenary session of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC on Saturday. It will be available for download from the Virtual Summit website (http://vcn.bc.ca/summit), or Michel Lambert at (514) 982-6606, e-mail: apec@alternatives.ca

Ensuring voices are heard at the plenary

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC organizers want to make certain that international voices and women's voices are heard in our debates. Although we are pleased to be the host country, we don't want Canadian issues to take over. We don't want North Americans to dominate the debates.

To make sure international voices are heard, we asked each issue forum to select 25 "delegates" to the Summit Plenary; at least half from each forum must be women, and at least half must be "Southern partners." Delegates will be recognized to speak more frequently.

How were delegates chosen: That decision was left to issue forums. All issue forums were asked several months ago to establish a selection process that suited their group.

Everyone can participate: During plenary sessions on Saturday and Sunday, delegates from issue forums will speak from "delegate" microphones. All others registered for the Summit will be able to speak, but delegates will be recognized by the co-chairs more frequently. During workshops on Sunday, everyone attending can speak at any time.

Everyone is welcome to the People's Summit. Please respect our process.

A message from the Canadian Organizing Network for the 1997 People's Summit on APEC

Anti-APEC actions around Vancouver

A number of events in opposition to APEC will take place around the city over the next week. Look for updates and highlights in the communiqué.

Tent City: about 40 people are camped out on the grounds of the University of British Columbia in protest of APEC and the APEC leaders' on-campus meeting. Although anti-APEC work keeps many of the tenters busy off-site, visitors are encouraged to come by: lunch is at 12:30, workshops at 3:30 pm, meeting at 5 pm and dinner around 7 pm.

Get connected to the Virtual Summit

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The Virtual Summit includes up-to-date information about activities of the Summit, including the daily communiqué, articles of interest, on-line discussions, the Summit daily calendar of events, and updates on other actions and organizing in opposition to APEC.

On-line workshops include poverty, human rights, women and Indigenous Peoples.

Visit the Virtual Summit at the web café, or on-line at http://www.vcn.bc.ca/summit

Please look for programme details on Saturday and Sunday's events in tomorrow's communique.

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The media contact number during the 1997 People's Summit on APEC is (604) 290-8421.

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

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issue 9

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1997

INDONESIAN PROTESTERS WARNED

Delegates hold press conference to defend freedom of speech

In the face of veiled threats to their safety from their government, Indonesian and East Timorese participants to the People's Summit faced a crush of media yesterday to stand up for their basic right to freedom of speech.

About 20 delegates from Indonesia and East Timor caucused for about an hour to discuss statements by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas that measures will be taken against Indonesian nationals in Vancouver who take part in protests. While Alatas said people had the right to protest, just not threaten the safety of the Indonesian delegation, the veiled threat was not missed by those who speak out against Suharto or who plan to protest.

The Summit will mobilize an international campaign in the event Indonesian colleagues are harassed, detained or prosecuted.

The Summit's media team reacted swiftly to the delegates' decision to hold a press conference. At 2 pm, two members of the group faced seven television cameras, three large cameras, nine microphones and a room packed with broadcast and print reporters. Other members of the group who did not want to be publicly identified left the third floor media centre before the cameras started rolling.

A press release issued yesterday put People's Summit support behind the delegates, stating that the Summit would monitor the situation and will mobilize an international campaign in the event Indonesian colleagues are harassed, detained or prosecuted.

The People's Summit steering committee and advisory board also sent a letter to Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs Lloyd Axworthy, urgently requesting that the Canadian government seek a commitment from the Indonesian government to not harass, detain or prosecute Indonesian and East Timorese attending APEC parallel activities on their return home, and to alert Canadian ambassador to Indonesia Gary Smith to prepare to act to secure their safety if the need arises.

Sustainability Issues Forum

by Carolyn Whittaker

Lepeti Senituli of Fiji who co-chaired the opening and closing plenaries of the Sustainability Issues Forum with Betty Plewes summed up the theme common to all forum discussions by saying "we must learn from each other and teach one another how to say no to APEC and to teach one another how not to sign – we owe that to our children."

Five roundtable discussions ran concurrently all day with approximately 250 people from the North and the South discussing the impact of trade liberalization on agriculture, aquaculture\fisheries, cities, forestry and mining.

Other questions that were addressed by the roundtables included: What policies support sustainability issues in the Asia-Pacific? What are the messages for APEC, the government and the public? How can we promote people to people linkages in the Asia Pacific?

Summary recommendations from the roundtable sessions were presented at the closing plenary. These summaries will be advanced to the People's Summit final plenary on Saturday and forwarded to the official APEC on Sunday. Selected session participants will have an opportunity to present recommendations to the Federal Minister of the Environment on Sunday.

Highlights of Recommendations

Participants at the Aquaculture and Fisheries session were "astonished to learn the profound impacts of the shrimp aquaculture industry in Latin America and Asia," said Meenakshi Raman from the Consumer Association of Penang, Malaysia. Among aquaculture recommendations, said Raman, was a call for "a multi-sectoral and broad-based coalition for consumer campaigns and boycotts such as 'take a break from shrimp.'"

"We must de-colonize our own minds," said Farhad al Mazhar of Bangladesh, speaker for the Food and Security session. The many recommendations of this session call for a renegotiation of "the notions about the way we organize our cultures at local and global levels to reclaim control" and that "community level capacity for food production should not be negotiated."

Speaker Xavier Furtado of the Sustainable Cities session emphasized the common theme, calling for communication on "how trade liberalization is affecting people and our environment" and grassroots network building. "Contrary to the economic goals of APEC, sustainable cities mean quality life in relation to the sustainable use of resources."

Paige Fischer, speaker for the session on Forestry, said "we are in opposition to the proposal to put forests on the fast track." This was in response to the APEC Trade Ministers meeting on November 21 where representatives will discuss the liberalization of global trade in forest products over the next two to four years. Recommendations from the Sustainability Issues Forestry session were forwarded to the APEC meeting.

One of the strategies put forward was to use the International Declaration of Human Rights to challenge the legitimacy of APEC's economic globalization policies which are inherently in violation of the 50 year old charter.

The mining session speaker, Herminia Degawan of the Philippines, posed the question "should mining be under sustainability issues?" as it is "disastrously unsustainable." According to mining speaker, Danny Kennedy, "APEC is an illegal vehicle being used by illegitimate governments to hasten and fast-track exploitation of mineral resources."

One of the strategies put forward by the mining session was to use the International Declaration of Human Rights to challenge the legitimacy of APEC's economic globalization policies which are inherently in violation of the 50 year old charter.

Public Education and Research Forum

by Sue Genge

The research section of the Public Education and Research Forum continued discussions on the development of a progressive research network. Participants at the forum are committed to developing an international research network that can respond to the needs of the grassroots movements, that can share research and information so that the wheel is not constantly being reinvented, and that provides both long term analysis and the development of accurate and useful popular education material.

Participants were also keen to provide access to and to assist in developing communication and dialogue with all of the social partners – unions, community groups, churches, NGOs, and women's organizations. One of the challenges facing these groups and researchers is limited resources, although access to the Internet opens up a wealth of information being developed world-wide on all of global capital's initiatives.

Information was exchanged among participants about useful websites and work being done throughout the Asia Pacific area as well as in Europe. This information, the recommendations from Wednesday's workshops, and the report of the Forum will be available during the Conference at the Public Education Research Forum's booth on the second floor of the Plaza of Nations in the Enterprise Hall. For more information on the research network, email John Price at joprice@unixq.ubc.ca.

The public education session of the forum met at the BC Teachers' Federation yesterday morning. About 80 teachers from around the Asia Pacific built on Wednesday's full slate of workshops to develop an action plan for presentation to the Summit Plenary.

Civil Rights and Labour Rights in Indonesia: Advocacy and Networking for Democracy

by Sarah de Leeuw

It started out with jokes. "Who's the highest paid professional in Indonesia? Dentists... because when they operate they have to work from the belly up. You see, in Indonesia, no one is allowed to open their mouths."

"We have to rent your (Northern) democracy. But there is a rent to pay – often when we return to our countries we are imprisoned. The rent we pay is our freedom. We sometimes pay for it with our blood or our life."

– Dr. George Aditjondo

But what started as a joke in the forum 'Civil Society and Labour Rights in Indonesia: Advocacy and Networking for Democracy' ended in deadly seriousness. After the Indonesian foreing minister issued its warning against Indonesian nationals who speak out against Suharto, two speakers in the seminar, Dr. George Aditjondro and Tati Krisnawati, were forced to leave to discuss their response to the Indonesian government statement.

Before leaving, though, both gave powerful speeches to the people attending the seminar. Dr. Aditjondro opened the discussions with a speech centred around democracy, Northern accountability to globalization, and military aid given by Canada to Indonesia. "Military aid does not only help the military," said Aditjondro, "It also helps the [global/northern] economies because in Indonesia the military helps to suppress social groups and activists who lobby for better wages."

Aditjondro also addressed the issue of speaking in forums like the People's Summit. "We have to rent your (Northern) democracy. But there is a rent to pay – often when we return to our countries we are imprisoned. The rent we pay is our freedom. We sometimes pay for it with our blood or our life."

"People of the South subsidize the profit of the North through our suffering," said Aditjondro. "Our struggle to survive is often linked to your struggle to make your governments more accountable." He also advised for stronger ties between social movements in the North and the South and for more government and consumer lobbying.

Tati Krisnawati addressed the issue of migrant workers and lack of labour laws in a globalizing economy. "There is a new Bill for Workers in my country. But look closely and you will see it is only protection for the capitalists. It is really a legislation of exploitation."

Unequal development, underdevelopment of legal protection and the feminization of poverty were three of the problems facing migrant workers discussed by Krisnawati. "Most migrant workers are women," said Krisnawati. "They are also mostly from rural areas, and they make up the poorest sector of society."

"The industrial revolution has not created enough jobs to absorb the workers being displaced in rural areas," said Krisnawati. "Now these [displaced] workers have no power, and wages are so low they prefer to go abroad."

"Some economist feel APEC is good because it will mean more people will be watching Indonesia," explained Krisnawati. "But others feel this is like 'dancing with the wolf' because it will not change that our people have no power and no leader."

In the afternoon, delegates to the forum developed an action plan to be presented to the Summit Plenary on Saturday.

Human Rights Forum

by Ellen L. Ramsay

The Human Rights Forum opened in the Theatre of the Plaza of Nations to an audience of about 1,000 delegates. Following the opening address by Vikki Reynolds from Vancouver Association for Survivors of Torture and a keynote address by the 1996 Nobel Prize winner José Ramos-Horta, the audience was informed and entertained by an hour-long mock human rights trial that put the 18 APEC leaders and their representatives on trial for human rights violations. The role of repression in Tiananmen Square was addressed as well as the role of free trade unions in the All China Federation of Trade Unions, along with the displacement of citizens in the 3 Gorges Dam Project, and the death of refugees in detention camps in Indonesia.

The presentation was followed by a panel on Occupational and National Self Determination with the question posed: "Are Human Rights Universal?" The tone of the panel was darkened by the announcement that the Indonesian government had announced to the media that it would take action against Indonesians speaking out against the Indonesian government from outside the country.

Nonetheless, the first speaker, representing East Timor, spoke out strongly against the 1975 occupation of his country by Indonesia in which 1/3 of the East Timorese population have died. The speaker gave personal testimony about the military invasions of his country and people and received an extended standing ovation.

T.C. Tethong, representing the Dalai Lama, spoke

informatively on the history of Tibet and the invasion of that country by China. He explained how China rationalizes its actions as protection, when in reality it has violated International Conventions and sent the Tibetan government into exile. Kelly White then gave a moving address about the colonial condition of Native people in Canada and encouraged the students in the audience to educate themselves and their parents on the situation of First Nations people today.

The second panel of the day was entitled "Trade and Human Rights: Should Trade and Human Rights be Linked?" Libby Davies opened this panel with a reminder that the People's Summit in Manila in 1996 "reaffirmed human rights as the highest responsibility of states." She then went on to talk about how she believed human rights to be at the core of human development and that trade liberalization was being conducted for transnationals and not for people. Jaggi Singh of the East Timor Alert Network reinforced many of these points, adding that Canada has no lessons to teach and that human rights are being traded for profit, with students being among some of the targets. Arnub Guha, President of the APEC University Forum, then argued a "fair trade" position, claiming that human rights are universal, but that basic standards of living and subsistence are at stake.

Students, youth, activists and other interested attendees asked many important questions from the floor, reaffirming a human rights perspective. The theatre remained well attended for the duration of the forum.

Canada's Arms Trade to the Asia Pacific

by Elisa Peter

We live in the age of militarism. More than 110 million people have died in wars in the twentieth century, more than throughout the whole history of civilization.

Canada's Arms Trade to the Asia Pacific began today with the Premiere of *Bombs Away: Airshow Canada, Globalization and the New International Arms Trade*, a local video showing the responsibility of the Canadian government and military industry in the selling of arms and nuclear weapons to regimes with well-known human-right abuse records, such as Indonesia and China.

Michael Wallace, professor of Political Sciences at the University of British Columbia and Ehito Kimura from Focus on the Global South (based in Bangkok) both emphasized that, since the end of the cold war, only one region of the world – East Asia – has experienced a significant rise in military spending. As a consequence, the Asia Pacific has become the focus of arms manufacturers. For them, APEC represents an opportunity for an unrestrained weapons trade in the Asia Pacific. These arms serve to increase instability in this region, which already has several dangerous flashpoints.

APEC represents an opportunity for an unrestrained weapons trade in the Asia Pacific. These arms serve to increase instability in this region, which already has several dangerous flashpoints.

Andrea Needham (Ploughshares Action, Britain) provided an inspiring example of "successful reconversion" of the military industry. She was one of the four women arrested for destroying a Hawk fighter, using hammers, that was destined for export to Indonesia. To the amazement of peace activists worldwide, the women were cleared in court of all charges.

Joao Antonio Dias (East Timor) worked until December 1993 as analyst in the laboratory at the military hospital in Dili, East Timor. He was working on November 12th, 1991 and witnessed the carnage when Indonesian soldiers opened fire on peaceful demonstrators at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili.

Finally, Corazon Fabros (Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition, the Philippines) gave the audience insights on the campaign against nuclear reactors in the Philippines, including CANDU reactors manufactured in Canada. She has 30 years experience in the struggle against US bases in the Philippines, and is involved in the campaign to get the US to clean up the environmental damage left from the bases.

The final document, *Abolishing the Arms Trade*, and the video (CAN $20) are available from End the Arms Race, 825 Granville, Ste. 405, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 1K9 (604) 687-3223.

Bombs Away will screen again at the Amnesty International Human Rights Film Festival, also a part of the Summit, Saturday November 22nd, 9:30 pm, SFU Harbour Centre.

International Tribunal on Workers' Human Rights

by Rod Browne

Last night, testimony was heard from eight 'witnesses' – workers and union activists – from five countries, who recounted stories of exploitation, workplace intimidation, unsafe and unfair working conditions, and violations of basic human rights.

The International Tribunal on Workers' Human Rights, a free, public event co-sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, was witnessed by about 300 people. The tribunal of five international 'judges' will be issuing a statement at today's Workers' Rights Forum, based on the testimony heard.

Among the stories told was that of four female workers at a Mattel-owned maquila in Mexico who were searched, forcibly detained, interrogated for 10 hours, and forced to sign resignation letters by factory management. Accused of carrying subversive literature, the workers were in fact fired because of their demands for seniority rights. The courts ruled that they were not illegally confined, since no ransom had been demanded. "They fed us with lies," said Delfina Rodriguez Reyes, one of the detained workers. To date, Mattel has done nothing to discipline those responsible or to compensate the women for their confinement.

"If governments can hire dozens of lawyers to apply all their sophisticated reasoning to international trade agreements, surely those same governments could hire maybe 10 lawyers and put in a minimal set of workers rights."

– Edward Broadbent

Or the story of the Bangkok factory, owned by a transnational corporation, that fired all of its workers and fled Thailand rather than negotiate with the newly-formed factory union. Yaowapa Donsae, former union vice-president at the factory, recounted their experiences trying to win compensation for dismissed employees. "Management told us we were too old for them to use, we were like an old buffalo that was no longer of any use for them," Donsae said tearfully.

Then there was the story of the Zhili factory fire in a Chinese Special Economic Zone four years ago. Eighty-seven workers died and 46 were seriously injured when the toy factory burned down. Management practised a policy of barring all the windows and locking the exits in order to prevent theft and keep workers from leaving work early.

Closer to home, video testimony was shown of five Thai women arrested in Toronto in September for violating Canadian immigration and prostitution laws. The women had been brought to this country through an international sex trafficking ring, but were treated as criminals by the Canadian police and justice system rather than as victims of exploitation.

Edward Broadbent, a member of the tribunal, closed the evening by urging the audience to remember that behind every toy or piece of clothing we buy this Christmas, there is often a young woman or man working in a sweatshop in terrible conditions. "If governments can hire dozens of lawyers to apply all their sophisticated reasoning to international trade agreements, to ensure in infinite detail the protection of commercial rights associated with intellectual property, surely those same governments could hire maybe 10 lawyers and put in, with the same rigour, a minimal set of workers rights," Broadbent concluded.

Drafting Group

by Daisy Francis

The group that met at the end of the opening ceremonies agreed to produce a document which would have a pre-ambular statement followed by all of the conclusions and recommendations of the various issues fora.

Yesterday, some members of the group met and drafted the document, copies of which can be found on the People's Summit information table. There will be a number of opportunities during the Plenary to discuss the pre-ambular statement.

Host Committee Updates

Attention Issue Forum Coordinators: There is an important meeting tonight, Friday, at 6 pm in the Break Out Room (see map in program). The purpose of the meeting is to assess the possibilities for common strategies, campaigns and actions based on the results of our Issue Forums. By beginning to develop these possibilities, we can prepare for the workshops to be held during the Plenary. To assist this discussion, please

bring on paper or diskette, the conclusions of your forum.

Briefing Sessions by Canadian Government: All those interested in briefing sessions by the Canadian government on the official APEC process are welcome to meet at 6 pm in the Pre-show Room tonight, Saturday and Sunday. There is also a meeting on Tuesday November 25th at a site TBA.

Childcare Available: Childcare is available at the YWCA Hotel/Residence at 733 Beatty Street until November 23rd.

Speeches: Copies of Maude Barlow's and Jose Ramos-Horta's speeches from the Opening Ceremonies are available at the Media Centre.

Indigenous Peoples' Caucus

The Indigenous Peoples' Caucus issued a statement today outlining plans for the caucus to take this morning, and announcing a press conference for this afternoon.

"We as Indigenous Nations, believe we have a responsibility to ensure a land base and cultural integrity for all future generations. APEC poses a direct threat to the preservation of Indigenous peoples' rights and resources. One of the issues which is plainly being ignored in the APEC negotiations is the rights of Indigenous peoples. Our identity as Indigenous Nations lies in the connection of our peoples to the land and our traditional resource. APEC threatens to lay waste to the land Indigenous peoples have coexisted with since time immemorial in the name of commercial gain. Destroying our culture. The 1997 Peoples' Summit APEC Indigenous Peoples' Caucus will provide the opportunity for the Indigenous Nations of the countries affected to convene and take action in an effort to put a stop to APEC's genocidal negligence of our rights as Indigenous Nations."

The caucus will meet from 9 am to 1 pm in the Board Room at Club Nations to discuss options for action against the effects of APEC. Presentations will be heard from leaders, who will recommend plans for exerting the rights of Indigenous Nations to have control over issues, such as APEC, that could prove detrimental to their peoples. By the end of today, the caucus hopes to have formed solid plans for strong political action against the imposition of APEC. Delegates will work on implementing them in a unified front, for the preservation of their cultures and resources and for the generations yet to come.

The press conference will be held in the Media Centre at Enterprise Hall at 1:30 pm.

Tomorrow night at the Summit

Saturday The People's Concert and Dance will be held at Enterprise Hall, in the Plaza of Nations from 8 pm to midnight. Performers include Asza, the Eagle Song Dancers, Fraser Union, the Raging Grannies, Three Strong Winds, and Sawagi Taiko. Guest speaker is Cenen Bagon, master of ceremonies is Marilyn Dumont. Country dancing to follow by Where's Mick? $10 donation (or what you can afford), proceeds to assist with travel expenses for international delegates.

Anti-APEC actions around Vancouver

A number of events in opposition to APEC are taking place around the city. Look for updates and highlights in the communiqué.

Tonight, 7 to 11 pm Cultural Survival Festival – Art Against APEC benefit with Jeet K da Trip Master, Joey Keithley (DOA), Third Eye Tribe, Submission Hold, Web. Emily Carr Insititute of Art and Design, Student Lounge, call 644-4349 for info.

Tuesday November 25: NO to APEC demo – continuing the resistance. March starts at 3:30 at Oppenheimer Park (at Powell and Jackson), rally is at 5:30 at the Vancouver Art Gallery, Robson Street Side. ASL and language translation provided. For childcare, call No to APEC at 215-9190.

What's up with the Daily Communiqué?

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC publishes daily communiqués on the proceedings of Summit events. It appears as a printed version for delegates on-site, and goes out to the media. People from around the world follow the Summit through communiqués sent out on the listserve (e-mail majordomo@list.web.net with the message: subscribe apecforum-l) and posted to the Virtual Summit website (www.vcn.bc.ca/summit).

The communiqué is written by forum participants and volunteer reporters, and material is not vetted by the People's Summit for content, so the perspectives expressed remain those of the writers.

The media contact number during the 1997 People's Summit on APEC is (604) 290-8421.

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

issue 10

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1997

WORKERS' RIGHTS FORUM

by Rod Browne

Yesterday's Forum on Workers' Rights and Democratic Development set out to tackle a difficult agenda. Co-sponsored by the Canadian Labour Congress and the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, the forum was designed to cement ties and cooperation between the groups working in APEC countries to advance workers' human rights.

After being welcomed by BC Federation of Labour President Ken Georgetti, delegates heard Warren Allmand of the ICHRDD criticize the exclusion of workers from the APEC discussions. "We do not believe the Canadian government, as the host of his APEC summit, has done enough in pressing for reform in the APEC process, in emphasizing the importance of human rights commitments, and in pressing forward the link between democratic development and economic growth," Allmand said. "We must find a way to break open the APEC logjam on human rights, including workers' rights."

Pharis Harvey, Executive Director of the International Labor Rights Fund in Washington, D.C., followed up by outlining the four-year history of alternative conferences on APEC, and proposing a list of tasks for activists to take from the People's Summit. Harvey put forward an alternative vision for APEC, one that is "democratically transparent and participated in by all social sectors."

Yayori Matsui of the Asia-Japan Women's Resource Centre, and a member of Thursday night's International Tribunal on Workers' Human Rights, gave her personal impressions of the testimony presented the previous evening. Despite the anger she felt on hearing the testimony, Matsui also felt it gave her strength: "I felt empowered, because in spite of such difficult conditions, the workers continued to struggle." She also presented the judges' statement and recommendations, noting that the experiences detailed in the testimonies violate the vast majority of articles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other UN and International Labour Organization declarations. The statement also made nine recommendations to the APEC heads of government. "APEC's present economic framework strengthens investors' and corporations' ability to ruthlessly accumulate wealth through repression and violation of the fundamental rights of workers," the statement asserted.

Most of the day was devoted to workshops, and participants in each workshop were encouraged to formulate concrete proposals for action relating to their

Program for Saturday, November 22nd

9:00 am	Summit reconvenes in plenary Forum Populaire sur l'APEC: *Presenters: Michael Lambert, Pierre Baudet* Report from drafting group
10:00 am	Reports from issue forums and discussion **Panel 1:** Aboriginal caucus Human Rights forum
10:30 am	**BREAK**
10:45 am	Reports from issue forums and discussion **Panel 2:** Women's Conference against APEC Youth Forum Worker's Rights and Democratic Development Peasants' Roundtable
12:30 pm	**LUNCH**
2:00 pm	Reports from issue forums and discussion **Panel 3:** Sustainable Development Media Poverty South Pacific
3:30 pm	**BREAK**
3:45 pm	Reports from issue forums and discussion **Panel 4:** Education and Research Against Corporate Rule Critical Issues

particular topic. The workshop on making transnational corporations accountable looked at two primary strategies – corporate codes of conducts, and consumer campaigns – and evaluated the strengths, weaknesses, and contradictions of each. They recommended always working to strengthen and expand organizing opportunities on the ground for the workers involved.

In the workshop dealing with trade unions rights and democratic development, a consensus was reached that the two are closely linked, and that one cannot exist without the other. One action proposed was that trade unions should form alliances with all forms of civil and political society, in order to struggle for formal democracy, and there should be an exchange of information on a regional, national, and international level.

Organizing experiences in the informal economy was the topic of another workshop. This group identified several challenges facing informal sector workers seeking to organize, including defining who constitutes the informal sector, poor relations with formal trade unions, invisibility, and the need for unifying points in order to bring workers together. The actions proposed included urging trade unions to find a place for informal sector workers in central and international labour bodies.

The workshop entitled "The international trade union movement and human rights groups working together" noted some successful initiatives between trade unions and NGOs at the international level, as well as at the grassroots level. However, they saw the need for more work at the national level, and the need for a clarification of the roles of unions and NGOs. They called for all countries to ratifiy the ILO convention, and identified the issues of child labour and the MAI as ones on which both groups might work together.

> We cannot accept the argument in APEC that the requirement for consensus is an excuse for doing nothing on human rights
>
> – Bob White
> Canadian Labour Congress

International trade agreements and labour rights were tackled by another workshop, generating a vigorous and wide-ranging discussion. There was a general consensus that the attainment of popular sovereignty in the world of global trade was the ultimate goal, and any discussion of a 'social clause' in the World Trade Organization agreement must recognize the social and economic realities in which trade takes place. Reform of the WTO to include participation by NGOs and civil society would be a necessary precondition for any social clause, which should also address the issue of a minimum decent living wage, and target corporations as well as countries, emphasizing incentives over sanctions wherever possible. Finally, it was agreed that none of this makes sense unless workers on the ground are aware and participating. The workshop proposed that 1998 be declared the Year of Worker Rights, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The migrant workers workshop heard poignant stories of the plight of many of these workers. They reviewed the agreements and recommendations reached in Manila last year, as well as the UN convention on migrant workers and their families, and agreed on four points of action: that APEC governments be lobbied to ratify the UN convention on migrant workers; that December 18 be declared an international day of solidarity with migrant workers; that trade unions be urged to support migrant workers; and that an urgent action network be set up on behalf of migrant worker advocates on trial, detained, or otherwise in trouble.

Bob White, President of the Canadian Labour Congress, summed up the challenge. "We have to try and get our issues on the APEC agenda. Not instead of building a social movement, or instead of building international solidarity, but in addition to it. We have to demand that governments start representing people and not corporations. We cannot accept the argument in APEC that the requirement for consensus is an excuse for doing nothing on human rights," White concluded.

Critical Issues on APEC

by Ven Neralla

The Critical Issues on APEC forum examined a range of pressing economic, political and social issues that threaten to erode the well-being of Asia Pacific peoples and to stand in the way of sustainable development. The forum was organized into three inter-related panels.

First, the current economic crisis in Southeast Asia, manifested in the debacle of the financial markets, was examined. Martin Hart-Landsberg identified recessionary problems in the US as a major cause of the liberalization of capital controls which, in turn, provoked the debt crisis in the Third World. Walden Bello provided a structural analysis of the current financial debacle in Southeast Asia. According to Bello, in the future there is likely to be a strategic withdrawal of capital from the region, and there is every possibility of Southeast Asia entering a period of sustained depression. Men Sta. Ana presented a case study of the effects of financial instability – and particularly of portfolio investment or

'hot money' – on economic development in the Philippines.

In the second panel, the proliferation of 'new regionalism' and regional economic arrangements presented demonstrated some of the ways in which the free trade offensive is being institutionalized. Gareth Api Richards offered a critical analysis of the new engagement between Europe and Asia. He explained that the evolution of the European Union's policy towards Asia focused on the development of ideological consensus amongst political and corporate elites, the institutionalization of foreign economic policy-making in the European Commission, and the structural demands of European MNCs to penetrate lucrative Asian markets.

Dottie Guerrero continued the analysis of Europe-Asia inter-regionalism by focusing on the new Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) initiative, which is being promoted as the framework for managing trade and investment relations. Guerro said, the creation of an NGO Working Group with links between the two regions offers scope for genuine people-to-people dialogue in preparation for the next summit in London in 1998. Hector de la Cueva provided an overview of the implications of NAFTA, notably for economic and social developments in Mexico. He said strategies for action should move beyond expressions of solidarity to genuine cooperation between people's organizations, labor groups, and representatives of civil society. Walden Bello presented a brief description of the rationale behind the launch of the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA).

The final panel's review of specific case study analyses of agricultural policy-making offered compelling evidence of how the GATT-WTO multilateral regime has destroyed the very basis of agrarian livelihoods in many countries. Yash Tandon addressed how the US is using WTO as a weapon to open markets and eliminate the preference contained in Lome Agreement. Farhad Mozahr spoke on how the commodification of food is aggravating insecurity for families and communities.

Jimmy Tadeo then explained how GATT/WTO and APEC became synonymous, and how speculative land pricing is causing massive land conversion and the displacement of farmers. Karen Lehman addressed how US agricultural policy, which is largely corporate-driven, dominates GATT/WTO negotiations. Price subsidies from the US government enabled US agri-businesses to dictate world food price below the production cost and to manipulate the market, often resulting in price volatility. Finally, Elizabeth Oum reviewed how the opening of the Korean market has resulted in the decline of food self-supply.

Some of the recommendations of the panels included:

- The control of speculative finance at both local and national levels is of utmost importance.
- Governments must move away from a development model that is dependent on foreign capital to one that seeks to mobilize domestic sources of savings.
- The state remains vital in promoting forms of regulation that ensure equity sustainability – these states should be democratic and accountable to their citizens.
- Undertake case studies on the negative effects of liberalization to serve as material for networking and advocacy.
- Reconsider modernization including commodification, over-consumption and biotechnology.

Poverty vs. the People: Who will win?

by Sarah de Leeuw with Lilian Chatterjee

The Poverty issue forum included nine speakers and a room filled to capacity. The speakers addressed three main themes: key barriers to ending poverty; what programs/policies have worked; and strategies for action.

Kicking off the panel discussion, Sunera Thobani gave an impassioned speech questioning racist tendencies in the North's criticism of poverty and human rights abuses in the South, often ignoring what is happening in their own back yards. She also tied globalization to global poverty. "Are we going to stand up for globalization, which is pitting people against each other?" asked Thobani. "Let us condemn globalization, but not in a racist way."

Next, speaking to key barriers to ending poverty, was Dr. Gideon Rosenbluth, whose speech was delivered by his grandson. Rosenbluth told the audience that, in his opinion, government policies were the key barrier to the elimination of poverty. "There has been a shift to a conservative agenda aimed at fighting the deficit," said Rosenbluth. "The poor are poor because the rich and the middle class are seen by the government as unwilling to pay taxes."

Dr. Henning Karcher, after a round of questions, began the panel discussion on programs and policies that have worked against poverty. Karcher said all policies must centre around the idea "the poor know best how to use their skills." We must empower community groups and individuals, said Karcher, and they will then take care of themselves. A popular educator, Denise Nadeau, spoke on policies and programs, linking her discussion into a criticism of APEC. Not even a social

clause, she stressed, will protect the people. To sum up the discussion, Marta Torres delivered a personal and inspiring speech about the efforts of Coca-Cola workers in Guatemala to unionize. "The worst thing about poverty is that we begin to believe we have no rights. We must all come together."

Linda Moreau spoke first on strategies for actions. She began by discussing class discrimination, and challenged people in the audience to both realize their internal classism and see how class may be oppressing them. "If you have privilege, you have responsibility," said Moreau, who finished her speech by saying "Our strength is knowing we are right." Julian Disney, the last speaker of the day, called for an "enabling environment" for the poor.

Some of the themes that emerged from the seminar were: an increasing polarization between the rich and poor; the social exclusion of the world's poor; the need for corporate responsibility; fair taxation; a people-centred approach; and more public education on the causes of poverty.

In addition, delegates proposed at the international level a concrete Priority Plan to:

- reduce malnutrition by the year 2000 to half the levels in 1990, in every country where it has a significant presence
- provide all people with access to safe drinking water and sanitation by the year 2000
- provide all people with basic education by the year 2000, with a halving of illiteracy from 1990 levels and an emphasis on female literacy
- eradicate absolute poverty by the year 2010.

In order to have more impact on the social policy agenda there was a recommendation that representatives of civil society should focus on regional and sub-regional groupings within APEC.

APEC's Corporate Agenda

Unmasking the transnational corporations that are the driving force behind a free trade regime in the Asia Pacific

by Lara Nettelfield

Follow the money. Those were the instructions at the Corporate Agenda issue forum attended by 250 delegates. Those greenbacks, yuan and yen will lead you to transnational corporations, the real agenda setters at APEC, forum presenters said.

As evidence for this, Canada's Tony Clarke quoted a U.S. official as saying that APEC is a forum for getting government out of the way for business to do business. Getting out of the way means decreasing tariffs, making labour more flexible, low inflation and generous foreign investment laws.

To investigate this topic further the first morning panel discussed trade regimes as tools of the corporate agenda. "The competition between governments is really a competition between corporations," said Antonio Tujan, executive director of the IBON Foundation in Manila. But in today's global economy of sub-contracting and supplier networks, it is often difficult to know who is in control. Tujan cited the case of a European importer that buys from a Hong Kong supplier with factories in three other Asian nations, but all owned by Japan's largest conglomerate. Nor is the current crisis in Asia an opportunity to solve the problem of corporate influence. Far from illustrating to leaders the affects of currency speculation and the weaknesses of an export-led development model, it merely gave the IMF the opportunity to impose heavier – and more business-friendly – restrictions on Indonesia. Dr. Jane Kelsey of the University of Auckland then discussed how New Zealand has been "vulnerable to the rational decisions and the irrational whims of multinational corporations."

The second panel focused on the Multilateral Agreement Investment. Mike Dolan of Ralph Nader's respected Public Citizen, commented that the MAI is really a reaction to multinationals' fears about an assault on their ability to conduct business. Though NGOs typically have a revisionist (those who wish to add specific language) and rejectionist (those to wish to throw out the agreement) split, the broad-based nature of NGOs gives them an advantage over hierarchical corporations in organizing an opposition force to the agreement, he said.

After lunch, delegates broke out into smaller working groups where they delved into specific topics – finance, fisheries and agriculture, forestry, mining, health care, education and media. At the end of the day, the working groups reconvened to share their findings.

The need to create coalitions of groups with similar interests topped the list. But those coalitions would have to have the information and tools they need to wage the war against multinationals and currency speculators. Education about the MAI and other tools of the international business community, through widespread dissemination of information, is also desperately needed, participants noted. CEOs of major corporations

today will hold a parallel meeting to the Leaders and Ministerial meetings. Kelsey thinks that their [gospel] is not a given.

"People think you can't role the juggernaut back, that globalization is inevitable," she said. But Kelsey has a more optimistic message for executives at the CEO Summit: "We will defeat you on the MAI and from small victories bigger ones ensue."

Human Rights Forum

The Human Rights Issue Forum continued yesterday with an afternoon of speakers addressing a crowd of 250 delegates. The event was moderated by Canadian Member of Parliament Svend Robinson, who was ejected from China for speaking out on human rights and served a jail sentence in BC for participating in a blockade to protect old-growth forests.

Pierre Sané, secretary general of Amnesty International, opened the session. Sané's speech touched on a number of issues, including how governments are responsible, and therefore accountable to the people, for ensuring human rights. He also warned that in the current economic crisis in Asia, banks will be bailed out, and that it will be workers who pay the price. He called on a number of plans for action, including encouraging delegates to organize between events like the People's Summit. "This world has been entrusted to us by our children," said Sané. "We have a responsibility , not just to our fellow human beings, but to children not yet born."

The forum's seven speakers addressed the concerns of their countries, as well as global human rights. Maria Rhie of the United Korean Women Workers Association gave a history of the struggle for labour rights in her country, which she began working on in 1974 when unions were illegal in Korea. Wan Yan Hai of China said that human rights for lesbians and gay men in China have advanced considerably in recent years, but that there is still a long way to go in eliminating discrimination and persecution. "The future is bright," said Hai, "but the road is long and not always straight." Makoto Teranaka, chair of the Amnesty International Asia Pacific Grouping, set out some of the human rights abuses continuing in the region, for example how a clan in the Philippines lost the land they had worked for thousands of years. During the dispute, four clan members were shot by Philippine police, including an 8-year-old girl, and three were killed.

DELEGATE PROFILE

Poilep Nokos, Papua New Guinea

by Lyndsay Poaps, youth delegate

Poilep Nokos, 19, is a participant at the Summit from Papua New Guinea. Nokos first attended the Youth Forum, and has participated in the Women's Conference Against APEC and the Sustainability Issues Forum.

LP: Why did you come to the Peoples Summit?

Nokos: I wanted to come to the People's Summit to get a better understanding of the other issues around the world. In Papua New Guinea we are mostly concentrated on the issues that affect us, but I wanted to get a better understanding of what is happening in the rest of the world. This broader perspective will help me find solutions to problems in my community and will help me to better analyze them. I also wanted to attend because I felt that it would be good if I had some understanding or felt some form of solidarity with others who were doing the same sort of work.

LP: What issues or campaigns are you working on in your community?

Nokos: I live in Rei Village, which is on Lou Island, in the Province of Manus. The name of the organization I work with is called LICDAT – the Lou Island Community Development Action Team.

In my community we deal with the issues of mining, logging, women's rights, racial justice and the debt crisis. We are also working on a campaign centred around the West Papua Indonesian Occupation and the Kanaki fight for freedom against French colonization.

LP: What is the debt crisis?

Nokos: In Papua New Guinea the land is still owned by the people. The World Bank is trying to pressure the residents into registering their land. Once they register, the World Bank has a better idea of who they have to convince to sell the land. The World Bank wants to buy up all the land so they can set up their large scale development projects. This cannot happen. The land is life – if we lose our land, we loose our life...we lose everything.

LP: What do you think you will take back with you to your work and your home?

Nokos: I have created bonds with others and I have helped raise awareness about the struggles in my community. I think I return home with my beliefs in my work strengthened and a real sense of encouragement and commitment to my cause.

In the afternoon session, delegates were presented with a performance by Aztlan, a Mexican dance group, followed by another panel of four speakers. Palden Gyatso, a Tibetan Buddhist monk who survived 33 years of imprisonment and torture before escaping from Tibet in 1992, spoke of the continuing resistance of his people. Win Myint Than of Burma then spoke about human rights abuses under the current military regime in her country. Law Yuk Kai of Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor set out the human rights changes in Hong Kong under the handover, including the loss of democracy in the provisional government. "Without democracy, how can we safeguard our rights?" said Kai. In calling for international support for human rights, and offering the same in return, Kai said "human rights knows no boundaries."

Alex Currie, coordinator of business contacts for Amnesty International, set out AI's call for businesses to have a "code of conduct" to address human rights abuses. Currie said the codes should be built on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, and should apply to contractors, suppliers and agents. On the issue of enforcement, Currie stressed independent auditors with publicly-available reporting. (Currie believes that the auditing arm of KPMG now provides such a service.)

Currie's proposals prompted a number of speakers. Currie said the concept addresses the reality that "business is pushing governments these days," so go after businesses. On a challenge to an AI meeting with Shell, a corporation famous for its human rights abuses, Currie pointed out that AI will meet with the worst governments to discuss human rights abuses, and that that same is true of companies.

Another questioner asked the panel to address the often-heard contention that economic sanctions hurt working people (as Bill Clinton recently said of the decision to not impose sanctions against China). Than explained that international money in Burma goes to government, business people, their families, and the military. "In Burma," she said, "economic sanctions will never effect the grassroots level."

Robinson ended the forum with a quote from Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of concerned citizens can change the world. In fact, it's the only thing that ever has."

Street theatre workshop today

Headlines Theatre's David Diamond will continue yesterday's street theatre workshop after the final plenary today, and encourages delegates from outside Canada to join the group in creating images for tomorrow's march.

The street theatre workshop involves the creation of imagery using people, rather than props or costumes, to demonstrate the affects of the APEC agenda. Diamond said "We're trying to provide a way for the international delegates to have a symbolic expression of what APEC means to them in their country, so that during the march those images can be captured."

The workshop will meet after the Summit Plenary session (about 5:30) for one to two hours in the BC Room.

What's up with the Daily Communiqué?

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC publishes daily communiqués on the proceedings of Summit events. It appears as a printed version for delegates on-site, and goes out to the media. People from around the world follow the Summit through communiqués sent out on the listserve (e-mail majordomo@list.web.net with the message: subscribe apecforum-l) and posted to the Virtual Summit website (www.vcn.bc.ca/summit). The communiqué is written by forum participants and volunteer reporters, and material is not vetted by the People's Summit for content, so the perspectives expressed remain those of the writers.

Sunday, November 23rd

9:00 am	Summit plenary Report of the drafting group Establishment of workshops
10:00 am	Workshops on actions against APEC
11:30 am	Final plenary Virtual summit Aboriginal closing ceremony
	WALK FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE
11:30 am	Meets at Plaza of Nations
12:30 pm	Starts
	RALLY
1 pm	Corner of Granville and Cordova at APEC barricades

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

DAILY SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

issue 11

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1997

SUMMIT COMES TO A CLOSE

by Carolyn Whittaker

The Saturday summit plenary set out with the ambitious agenda of presenting and discussing the perspectives, strategies and action plans of the diverse forums, caucuses and rountables, as well as discussing the Draft Pre-Ambular Statement. Joan Grant-Cummings, co-chair of the opening of the session with Bob White, observed that the Vancouver People's Summit on APEC was an "I-told-you-so Summit" as "most of the things predicted as impacts of globalization and trade liberalization are happening." Human rights violations, environmental degradation, displacement of Indigenous peoples, among other impacts, are evidence of the failure of globalization and trade liberalization to address the basic socio-economic, cultural and spiritual needs of peoples in the South and North.

As can be expected from such a large delegation of people from different cultures and experiences, despite the consensus on the devastating impacts of the APEC agenda, there were a number of different viewpoints on strategies and action plans. Some saw the potential for reform within the APEC model; others saw no possibility for reform. There was a recognition of the need for the continuation of the struggle against the APEC agenda, building on what came from Manila, adding the experiences at Vancouver, and carrying it through to Malaysia next year.

Michel Lambert presented a Charter of People's Rights, developed at a pre-Summit forum in Montreal, that identifies the key human rights issues concerning the peoples of the 18 APEC countries. Lambert called for a "global solidarity" to fight against "the commodification of our rights." Discussion on this presentation emphasized the importance of supporting Indonesian delegates when they return to their country, and the need for further pressure from the Canadian people on their government regarding the atrocities of President Suharto.

Speaker Svend Robinson, a Canadian Member of Parliament, said "I hope to be able to confront the Foreign Minister of Indonesia to make it clear that there will be no retribution" and said he will be raising the issue in the House of Commons next week.

The drafting group presented the Draft Pre-Ambular Statement, and some discussion of the document followed.

Sunday, November 23rd

9:00 am	Summit plenary Report of the drafting group Establishment of workshops
10:00 am	Workshops on actions against APEC
BC Room	Multilateral Agreement on Investment
Enterprise Hall	International Week Challenging Corporate Rule
Breakout Rms	Building Women's Resistance
Enterprise Hall	Support Migrant Workers
Enterprise Hall	Organizing the Informal Sector
Breakout Rms	Consumer Goods Campaign
Enterprise Hall	Asia Pacific Country Campaigns on Human Rights
11:30 am	Final plenary Virtual summit Aboriginal closing ceremony
	WALK FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE
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Debate over the Draft Pre-Ambular Statement included the view that "the private sector benefits from APEC and cannot be part of a sustainable economic model." Others demanded that governments be held responsible for human rights violations. Some called for a social charter that will allow for accountability and that those responsible be accountable to "people and not just citizens." Finally there was a demand that "we should be building our solidarity and not focusing on government and the private sector."

This draft will be amended and the final Statement will be discussed in Plenary today. Reports and recommendations coming out of Summit fora and caucuses will then complete the document. How this completed package of documents will be used will also be decided at the final assembly today. This document will be posted on the Virtual Summit website as soon as it is complete.

Reports from fora and caucuses then began, with each presenting its final report and recommendations to the plenary session, followed by a short discussion period, and an opportunity to propose amendments. Thirteen reports were submitted in all: Aboriginal Caucus, Human Rights Forum, Women's Conference Against APEC, Youth Forum and Democratic Development, Peasant Roundtable, Sustainability, Media, Poverty, South Pacific (which took place in Victoria before the Vancouver Summit), Education and Research, Against Corporate Rule, and Critical Issues.

Copies of the final reports will also be available for download from the Virtual Summit website, or obtained in their entirety from the Summit Secretariat.

Draft Pre-Ambular Statement

It has become manifestly clear that trade liberalization has had destructive consequences for the vast majority of people and the environment. The voices of people's movements, women's movements, trade unions, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, churches, environmental groups and concerned individuals have united in firm opposition to corporate-driven globalization and have predicted its devastating effects.

Financial deregulation allowed massive profiteering by international speculators and brought down the Mexican peso, leaving job loss, lowered wages and greater impoverishment in its wake. The recent Asian financial crisis is wreaking the same havoc on the so-called "tiger economies", and now threatens the whole neo-liberal paradigm.

In all parts of the world, both the North and the South, human rights are under attack; irreversible damage is being done to the environment; social programmes are being dismantled; and unemployment has reached crisis proportions.

Therefore, we, the participants of the 1997 Vancouver People's Summit on APEC, building upon the declarations from Kyoto and Manila, raise our voices again, to:

- reiterate the unanimous rejection of the basic philosophy, framework and assumptions of the model of free trade and trade liberalization embraced by the APEC agenda
- reassert that genuine development: must be based on the universality of human rights and gender equality; must be centered on the needs of people and nature, realize social and economic justice, respect internationally recognized labour rights and insure that all peoples, especially the most vulnerable such as women, children and indigenous peoples, are secure in their basic rights to food, sources of subsistence, human dignity, integrity of communities, environmental security and self-determination
- condemn the failure of the governments of APEC to heed the warning that the form of indiscriminate, unregulated economic growth and trade which APEC advocates delivers the opposite of people-centered development because it enables governments to advocate responsibilities to their citizens and leave them at the mercy of transnational corporations and international financial institutions who are accountable to no one, and
- demand that governments and the private sector recognize the manifest failure of the APEC agenda which is evident throughout Asia and the Pacific, especially in South East Asia, and the devastation that has been caused to peoples and their environment throughout the region, and commit themselves to a genuinely participatory and emancipatory model of economic development, in line with the recommendations of the Issues Forums of this Summit.

Final Communiqué and the Virtual Summit

Look for a final Communiqué on the Virtual Summit website after today's meetings and march. Delegates are encouraged to post documents coming out of the Summit to the Virtual Summit website, which will remain up long after the Summit events have come to an end. Documents can be e-mailed to karen@intergate.bc.ca.

Thanks to all the volunteers for contributions to the communiqué. A safe return for our brothers and sisters in the South. See you in Malaysia! In Solidarity, the communiqué folks.

THE 1997 PEOPLE'S SUMMIT on APEC

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The APEC Conglomerate and Human Rights and Rule of Law, Principles Vs Realpolitik

José Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize Co-Laureate

José Ramos-Horta is a Visiting Professor at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, founder and member of the Board of the Diplomacy Training Program in the Law Faculty. He is the Special Representative of the National Council of Maubere Resistance (CNRM), umbrella organization comprising all East Timorese groups opposed to Indonesia's occupation of East Timor, and personal Representative of Xanana Gusmão, imprisoned leader of the Resistance. In 1996, he received the Nobel Peace Prize jointly with the Head of the Catholic Church of East Timor, Bishop Carlos Filipe Ximenes Belo. Mr. Ramos-Horta is member of the Commission of Nobel Peace Laureates on Arms Transfer. He is also founder of the Nobel Laureates Foundation, an independent coordinating secretariat of all Nobel laureates.

First, I would like to thank the Canadian Labour Congress, and organizers of the People's Summit on APEC for their kind invitation extended to me to join in this gathering of NGOs and peoples of the Asia-Pacific region. To all who have put so much effort, time and resources to make possible this gathering of citizens from so many countries I wish to extend my warm congratulations and warm gratitude.

My special gratitude to friends of East Timor in Canada for their kindness and generosity over the years of struggle to keep the flame of hope alive. Many Canadians have been very kind in sending me flowers. Their kind gesture touched me deeply. To all, including the Premier of British Columbia, the Hon. Glen Clark, who was so gracious in meeting with many of us today, my sincere appreciation for your warm hospitality.

Whenever I am compelled to appear before a distinguished audience as this one today I always wish that instead of me someone else be here today. It could be Xanana Gusmão, a gifted poet, writer and journalist. He is also the possible reincarnation of the romantic El Che who died 30 years ago in the jungles of Bolivia.

Xanana, like Mandela is now serving a 20 year prison sentence in a foreign land. Fours months ago, Xanana was summoned from his prison cell in Cipinang, Jakarta, for a meeting that is the dream of many common mortals, a meeting with one of the most extraordinary individuals this century has produced, Nelson Mandela. During his state visit to Indonesia, President Mandela asked Suharto that Xanana be allowed to see him. First Suharto said no but then relented and the former prisoner Mandela saw the prisoner Xanana for a 2 hour dinner and meeting.

But Xanana cannot be here today. Another East Timorese who should be here is my fellow countryman and Nobel Peace Prize co-Laureate, Bishop Carlos Ximenes Filipe Belo. He is the symbol of the resilience, determination, courage and generosity of the Timorese Church, a church which has always stood with the people, guiding it over the ages, through good and bad times, through war and through peace.

Another person, a far more eloquent spokesperson for the peoples of the Asia-Pacific region, for the men and women of Asia, in their struggle for peace, freedom and dignity, who should be here today, an extraordinary woman, a woman of courage, intelligence, vision and dignity, is Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the people of Burma. However, this courageous and kind woman is a hostage in her own country.

A year ago I got the shock of my life when the Nobel Peace Committee in Oslo announced the names of the two laureates for 1996. However, I have always taken the view that the prize is not a tribute to the work and commitment of individuals. No single individual has the exclusivity of dedication and determination to pursue this often lonely struggle throughout the years.

The Prize is in reality an honor to the struggling East Timorese people, young and old, women and men, who have given their lives for the cause of peace and self- determination; Bishop Carlos Belo's predecessor, the late Dom Martinho da Costa Lopes, the unknown priests and nuns, lay workers of our generous and humble church; the students and school teachers; civil servants and taxi drivers; the brave freedom resistance

fighters, and the underground activists. These are the true heroes who have been honored by the Nobel Peace prize.

But our work would have been even more lonely without the selfless support of our friends around the world. In these long 22 years, our friends of all walks of life in all five regions of the world helped us, fed us, gave us their beds, dedicated long years of their lives to this campaign against injustice. East Timor has been for them a universal cause, a test of human being's own morality.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends:

We are gathering here at a time of extraordinary challenges and hope, hope that the challenges of today will inspire and compel us, peoples and governments, to work towards economic and political reforms that will guarantee peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

We are at the dawn of the Third Millennium and thus we should reflect on what has been the last hundred years of the history of humanity, on the extraordinary positive achievements in every level of human activity but also on the darker side of our humanity.

From the time when daring Portuguese navigators sailed out of the Tagus river in early XV century to the Apollo missions in the 60's, the advances in transport and communications technology have been astounding. But the scientific and technological progress also brought about incalculable destruction and suffering. The slave trade which uprooted an estimated ten million Africans from their beloved villages in West Africa was made possible in part by the scientific knowledge acquired in sea voyage. The genocide of Indigenous peoples in the Americas and Australia must also be weighed in our reflection.

However, the magnitude of the destruction brought about by human beings against its fellow human beings did not begin and end with the slave trade and the colonization of the Americas, Africa and Australia. The greatest leap in scientific progress has been registered in this century of ours that is coming to an end. However this century has also been witnessed to some of the worst barbarism that human kind is capable of.

The genocide of the Armenians by the Ottoman Empire, the Jewish holocaust and the crimes against the gypsies in the 40's, the apartheid system in South Africa, the Chinese occupation and destruction of Tibet, the Vietnam war and the bombing of neutral Cambodia, the tragic events of 1965-66 in Indonesia that cost the lives of over a million Indonesians, the Khmer Rouge brutalities in the 70's, the Afghan war, the Iran-Iraq war in the 80's, the brutal war against the Eritrean people, the continuing persecution and denial of the rights of the Kurdish, the on-going occupation of East Timor, the tragedy in the Great Lakes region, stand out among the most serious crimes of this century.

I am conscious that I have left unmentioned many other tragic situations and for this omission I apologize.

The progress in the struggle for human rights

However, in spite of the dark history and present, we can take consolation in that significant progress has been made in the last 50 years in the global struggle for human rights and the rule of law. The international community through the UN and at the regional level has developed an impressive mass of binding international legislation and protection mechanisms that were unthinkable in the past.

As the world becomes a village through the extraordinary revolution in the field of international information and communications, crimes such as the slave trade, colonization and genocide of the indigenous peoples in the past centuries are no longer possible.

Gross and systematic abuses of human rights violations occurring in many countries do not escape public attention. The CNN and other global TV stations, the air waves of BBC and other important short wave broadcasting systems reduce the isolation, the distance and connect millions of peoples around the world. Tyrants that were immune to international scrutiny only a decade ago are no longer safe.

As much as the struggle for human rights and the rule of law remains a daunting task, we can feel

optimistic because the world is becoming smaller and unsafe for tyrants.

However, in the Asia-Pacific region, there are a few individuals in power who are attempting to derail the gains made by the international community. In the July meeting in Malaysia between the ASEAN countries and its Western cooperation partners, Prime Minister Mahatir Muhamad of Malaysia and Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas of Indonesia declared war on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Both leaders claimed that this is a document representing a minority view point and should be revised to accommodate "Asian values". However, the proponents of the "Asian values" theory have never actually articulated a set of "Asian values" that is supposedly different from the principles and values embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

This is the time for us to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this historic document. Instead we are all being challenged by Mahatir, Suharto, Lee Kuan Knew, Li Peng, the SLORC, Khameini and Saddam Hussein, that the Universal Declaration should be revised to accommodate the views of these gentlemen, namely, the views that Asians have their own human rights and cultural values different from those from Europe, Latin America and Africa.

These are not new arguments. Throughout the sixties and seventies, we heard similar arguments by the communist bloc, i.e., that human rights and fundamental freedoms were a Western concept that stood against the collective rights.

Ironically with the collapse of the communist bloc this argument has been appropriated by certain Asian regimes, a mixed bag of military dictatorships, Islamic autocrats that have their own peculiar interpretation of the Koran.

The human rights debate is not a conflict between the rich North and the impoverished South. It is rather a struggle of principles and ideals between the democracies and the despotic and undemocratic regimes.

Human rights are not only a moral imperative. Human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are also the only real guarantee of peace and stability that are necessary for economic progress. In an authoritarian or totalitarian state without an elected parliament, independent judiciary, a free and dynamic media, corruption becomes pervasive, saps the resources of the country, personal fortunes are accumulated, the gap between the rich and poor becomes wider and wider.

Human rights and national interest

I understand the difficulties in managing inter-state relations in a changing and volatile world, in a world increasingly smaller, competitive and interdependent. However, I believe that national interests cannot be defined only in terms of trade advantages and other quantifiable gains.

A country is worth its name if it can be respected for its independence and integrity, adherence to ethics and principle in its relation to other countries, prepared to politely but firmly to disagree with its friends. Should discreet diplomacy be the rule in relations among states, it should not mean abandonment of basic values and principles.

The promotion and defense of human rights might sometimes require a public and frank statement reflecting the concerns of a country. As it is the case in life, sometimes we win, sometimes we lose. Sometimes we have to pay a certain price for what we believe in.

The Jewish holocaust and Realpolitik

The Jewish holocaust could have been prevented by the powers that be at the time, namely the US, France and the UK. Reports of persecution of Jews in Germany and elsewhere in Europe were reaching European capitals and Washington. There were confidential reports warning about the rising tide of Nazism and persecution of Jews.

In 1939, a boat carrying 900 Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Germany was anchored off Florida waiting for clearance to land. After two weeks they were told that were not welcome and the boat was turned back.

The prevailing policy at the time in the US and UK was that Hitler should not be confronted. Appeasement was the preferred option, dictated by pragmatism and Realpolitik. The Jews were after all an expendable people in the grand scheme of national interests. More than six million Jews and hundreds of thousands gypsies were murdered because those who could have stopped the evil chose appeasement.

Justice Robert Jackson, Chief Prosecutor of the Nuremberg War Crime Tribunals, said: "The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated ."

However, similar crimes are continuing because those in government allow them to happen. The Jewish Holocaust happened because the powers that be at the time chose pragmatism and appeasement over moral leadership and humanity. The defenseless Jews who were marched to their deaths were a mere footnote to the apologists of Realpolitik and pragmatism in their pursuit of appeasement towards Hitler.

It was pragmatism that drove the West to support Saddam Hussein in the Iran-Iraq war in the 80's. For the practitioners of pragmatism, Saddam Hussein was a moderating influence in the Gulf region that could contain the spread of Islamic fundamentalism from Iran.

Even when the world watched in horror the gassing of thousands of Iranian Kurdish women and children by the Iraqi air force, the West continued to choose pragmatism over principles.

In February 1990, US and European diplomats were busy in the UNCHR in Geneva trying to stop a draft resolution critical of the human rights situation in Iraq. Their argument was that "significant progress" was being made in the respect for human rights in Iraq. A few months later, Saddam Hussein became the worst evil in the world when his troops invaded Kuwait.

The immorality of arms sales

Since the end of the Cold War, at least four million people have lost their lives in 30 conflicts around the world. Over 40 million people died in conventional wars since the end of World War II. There are 40 million refugees or displaced persons around the world.

While I do not wish to oversimplify the often complex nature of some of these conflicts, no one can deny that the arms trade is the single most serious cause of such destruction.

A recently established Commission of Nobel Peace Laureates has urged governments to adopt an International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers. The Code would require that all arms recipients meet certain criteria, namely, compliance with international human rights standards, humanitarian law, respect for democratic rights and the rule of law. We are conscious that what we are proposing does not go far enough. However, we believe that the adoption of such a Code could contribute to peace in the world.

I fully share President Clinton's concern about the proliferation of modified assault rifles in the US and fully support his decision to block permits already issued to dealers for 600,000 guns and freezing applications to import a million more. ("President Imposes A Hold on Imports of Assault Rifles", New York Times, November 15, page 1).

In a radio address, President Clinton said: "I am not going to let people overseas turn our streets into battle zones..."

Those of us in the developing world who have seen our countries and people destroyed by weapons sold by the US and other industrialized countries to our despotic regimes could not agree more with President Clinton's sentiments of revulsion.

Developed countries accounted for 93% of all weapons export in 1994. The US accounted for over half. In 1993, the US sold 73% of all arms to the developing world. Of the recipients, 90% were not democracies and over two-thirds were on the US State Department list of human rights violators.

It is rather ironic that the five permanent members of the UNSC that are supposed to look after our collective security, are also the biggest arms merchants of the world fueling and profiting from the wars.

The Asia region is the fastest growing arms market and Indonesia is second only to China in arms build-up.

I applaud the recent decision by the US Congress in prohibiting the use of American weapons in East Timor. I also commend the Clinton Administration as well as the British Labor government for the initiatives taken in pressing the Suharto regime to improve its record and engaging the Indonesian democracy movement in dialogue. However, they can and should do much more when we bear in mind their much greater responsibility.

Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to share with you some excerpts of a story that appeared in IHT, October 27. The title reads: "The Mood Darkens as Haze Spreads Across Southeast Asia":

Tigers and elephants are fleeing the burning jungles. Birds are falling from the murky skies. Schoolchildren are fainting at their desks. Ships are colliding at sea.

As a filthy haze from vast Indonesian forest fires continues to darken the sky across seven Southeast Asian nations, illness, ecological destruction and economic hardship are growing.

After four months, the man-made fires, set on the heavily forested islands of Borneo and Sumatra to clear land for crops, are spreading rather than shrinking. And with Indonesia suffering its worst drought in 50 years - a result of El Niño weather disturbances - no one knows how many weeks or months it will be until the monsoon rains finally arrive to douse the fires.

Smoke from the fires, mingling with urban pollution, has spread from Indonesia into Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei and Papua New Guinea. [...]

Well-connected palm oil plantation owners and pulp-and-paper companies in Indonesia have continued clearing land by burning off vast tracts of jungle, seemingly immune to laws or punishment. [...]

The immediate effects of the smog have been dramatic. Airports have closed

and flights canceled around the region. Uncounted days of work have been lost as factories and mines have shut down and hundreds of thousands of people have fallen ill with respiratory ailments. [...]

Already it has affected agriculture, and food shortages and rising prices are predicted. Reduced sunlight is slowing the growth of fruits and vegetables and reducing yields of corn and rice. The smoke is tainting cocoa crops. Birds, bees and insects have disappeared in many areas, disrupting pollination.

Indonesia is the world's leading producer of robust coffee beans, largely used for instant coffee. It is the world's second leading producer of cocoa and palm oil and is a major producer of rubber. All have been affected.

Hundreds of people are reported to have died from starvation, dysentery and influenza. Some doctors say there could be a severe long term toll on health that may not show itself for years, particularly among the young, the old and people with respiratory problems.

Prime Minister Mahatir Muhamad blames George Soros for the stock market and currency debacle in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Megaprojects, delusion of grandeur, corruption, lack of transparency and accountability, cronyism, nepotism, mismanagement, are not the real problems that have brought down the edifices of arrogance erected by our despotic rulers. The culprits are to be found elsewhere.

When will the leaders and elites of Asia learn about modesty, humility, discretion, social justice and tolerance, virtues that are to be found in the ancient teachings of the Koran, Buddhism and Hinduism? They who claim to be the guardians of "Asian values" seem to be the very ones who ignore certain sacred teachings of the Eastern religions and philosophies.

The APEC leaders may continue to pretend that human rights and fundamental freedoms, labor, women, minority and indigenous rights, are abstract notions without a place on its agenda. However, it is the policies espoused by the IMF, World Bank and APEC leaders that are responsible for the environmental disaster in Indonesia and for the demise of the so-called "tiger economies", resulting in misery for millions of peoples in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand who have lost their savings and livelihood. It would be amusing if it were not so tragic, to say the least , to see how the so-called experts who until recently took credit for the alleged

"economic miracle" in East Asia are now conveniently silent.

The enormous wealth and the potential of the APEC region are obvious. The GDP, population and trade figures speak for themselves and I need not elaborate. However, APEC's political diversity comprising rich and democratic countries as well as some of the poorest and most repressive regimes of the region reduce it to essentially an annual extravaganza of leaders and bureaucrats who are alienated from the common people's problems and real needs.

When a group of leaders meet and ignore the choking clouds of forest fires, the misery of the poor who lost their savings and jobs, indifferent to the armies of peasants and workers expelled from their land, the labor leaders, students and activists imprisoned because of their opinions, then it is courting revolution.

In a recent meeting in Washington with senior American Administration officials I recommended that the US should lead the rescue of Southeast Asian economies at this time of severe crisis in the region. Regardless of the responsibilities for the economic catastrophe in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, the reality is that millions of poor people are being affected and many more will be out of a job in the next few months.

Beyond the moral and humanitarian consideration, I believe that there is a serious potential for political and security turmoil in the region if the economic and financial crisis is not met with strategic vision.

A strategic vision entails a comprehensive approach in addressing not only the immediate economic problems but also the underlying causes of the crisis. There has to be a serious re-evaluation of the development strategy taking into consideration the human and environmental factor.

In final analysis, APEC will not be able to sustain itself if economic growth and trade liberalization remain its only concern. The peoples of Asia will not allow their environment and natural resources that are the sources of their livelihood to continue to be plundered at such an extraordinary cost to them.

A rescue package must include specific measures on political reform. Indonesia should allow the formation of independent trade unions, release all political leaders, lift Press censorship, abolish the death penalty and ratify the Torture Convention. These are only some of the steps that should be taken immediately. An economic rescue package to the tune of US$40 billion dollars, as has been reported, without serious political reforms will make a mockery of the Indonesian people.

The situation in Burma

The situation in Burma demands action beyond the annual ritual of the UN General Assembly and CHR resolutions.

The military junta in Burma which defrauded the Burmese people and the international community should be denied a seat in the UN General Assembly, as the South African apartheid regime was denied a seat in the past.

In the late 70's, the ASEAN countries, supported by the US, also succeeded in blocking recognition of the government installed in Phnom Penh after the Vietnamese intervention in 1978.

If the international community wishes to move beyond rhetoric and send a clear signal to the SLORC, the denial of its credentials by the GA Credentials Committee is one course of action to be considered.

The current sanctions initiated by the UE and EU though commendable are totally inadequate. Prohibiting only new investments in Burma while maintaining existing ones seems to me to be an empty gesture. Existing businesses and investments in Burma are the problem and they must pull out.

China, Taiwan, Tibet

When the UN SC debated the issue of East Timor in 1975 and 1976 China was our closest ally. I worked closely with very able Chinese diplomats. In spite of the indifference of the other four permanent members, China, along with other non-permanent members, succeeded in pushing the SC to adopt two resolutions on East Timor.

It is with this feeling of gratitude and admiration for China that I appeal to the Chinese leaders to listen to their own people's opinions and desires for a more open society, based on the rule of law, democracy, and freedom of speech. These are, after all, rights that are granted to each Chinese citizen by their own Constitution.

Wei Jingsheng is one of China's best children. He is being wasted away when his talents could best be used in the service of his fellow Chinese people and country. His release is reason for some celebration only because he has been given a chance for medical treatment. However, I find it ironic that often we have to express gratitude to our despots when they release a prisoner whom they should not have arrested anyway.

The people of Taiwan have shown great maturity, responsibility and commitment to peace and democracy. As long as there is no progress on the issue of peaceful reunification or on any other option for the future of Taiwan, I believe that the cause of peace can best be served if Taiwan is granted observer status in the UN. The observer status was granted in the past to South and North Korea, South and North Vietnam.

After all, China has not objected to Taiwan joining the APEC in recognition of its great importance. Observer status as an interim measure would provide justice to the 21 million people of Taiwan. China should listen to the voice of peace and moderation of the Tibetan people. For many years the Tibetan spiritual leader, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, has offered a moderate peace proposal to the Chinese authorities to settle the Tibetan conflict.

Human rights for the Chinese people, the issues of Tibet and Taiwan are the three major challenges for the Chinese leadership and the world community.

The struggle for self-determination in East Timor

Allow me now to turn to the question of East Timor. For a better understanding of the conflict I will set it in its historical and geopolitical context.

You might recall a picture that made headlines in the spring of 1975. I am referring to the picture of an American helicopter landing on the rooftop of the US Embassy in Saigon to rescue remaining diplomats, CIA operatives and a few privileged South Vietnamese stooges as Saigon fell to the Vietcong. Cambodia and Laos followed. This picture illustrated better than a thousand words the ignominious American retreat from Indochina. For the leaders in Moscow it was the beginning of Russian expansion and influence, the implementation of the Brezhnev doctrine.

It was in this geopolitical context that President Gerald Ford and his Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger, visited Jakarta in early December 1975 as part of an Asian tour to reassure Asian leaders that the US would continue to honor its security commitments in Asia.

The invasion of East Timor which took place within hours of Ford's departure from Jakarta was a mere footnote in the geopolitical events of 1975. Thousands of East Timorese who died in the days, weeks, months and years that followed were mere footnotes to the Vietnamese and Cold Wars.

The right of the people of East Timor to self-determination is widely recognized. This UNSC resolution called on Indonesia to withdraw its troops from East Timor "without delay" and "affirmed the right of the people of East Timor to self-determination".

From 1975 onwards, the US was an accomplice in one of the greatest aggression of modern times. US supplied weapons and diplomatic backing to Indonesia, while ignoring the extraordinary brutalities of the Indonesian army in East Timor.

The end of the Cold War took away from Indonesia and the US the strongest rationale for supporting the invasion and annexation of East Timor, namely the threat of Communism.

However, Indonesia and its friends try a new scare tactic, that Indonesia would disintegrate if it were to allow East Timor to go free. This might have some validity if East Timor were an historical part of Indonesia. This is not the case. East Timor was colonized for almost 500 years by the Portuguese and has forged a strong cultural and religious identity, older than the history of the US and that of most Latin American and African states.

I understand the legitimate concern of countries in preserving their national unity and territorial integrity. Many developing countries, Indonesia being a prime example, experienced a traumatic nation-building process with numerous attempts from within and without to undermine the unity of the state.

But governments must be sensitive and wise with regards to the basic demands of their own people. In most cases these demands are not for secession. They ask to be allowed to survive as a people with a language and a culture. They ask that their land and environment be protected from rapacious multinationals. Only when these basic demands are not met do they resort to other forms of struggle, with an escalation in their demands.

I do not hold the view that an independent state has to be homogenous, ethnically, culturally or religiously. Examples abound of multi-ethnic states that live in peace, based on shared concerns and destiny, on a degree of genuine political and administrative autonomy for each component, and of deep respect for each others heritage and aspirations.

The CNRM Peace Initiative

For more than 20 years now, I have argued for a peaceful resolution of the East Timor conflict through dialogue between us and the Indonesian side. These views haven't changed.

Our imprisoned leader, Xanana Gusmão, has proposed and reiterated time and again our very basic stance. We remain ready to enter into a process of dialogue with the Indonesian authorities, under the auspices of the United Nations, without pre-conditions, to explore all possible ideas towards a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

In 1992, I articulated a peace proposal, which I believe to be a reasonable way - even if it is not the only one - to end the conflict. This peace initiative was first outlined when I addressed the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the EU in April 1992 and it remains valid today.

This phase which should take up to two years to be fully implemented, would involve all three parties working with the UN to implement a wide range of "confidence building measures", but would not deal with the core of the problem which is the issue of self-determination. This phase of the talks must focus on achieving:

> Immediate end to all armed activities in East Timor; reduction of Indonesian troop presence to a maximum of 1,000; release of all political prisoners; reduction by 50 per cent of Indonesian civil servants in East Timor; stationing in the territory of UN Specialized Agencies such as UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, FAO

These are some of the ideas which I believe could be implemented immediately without loss of face for Indonesia. On the contrary, its international standing would improve significantly and its presence in the territory would be less resented, thus relieving a very tense situation.

Phase Two - Autonomy, 5- 10 years

Phase Two, lasting between five and ten years, would be a period of genuine political autonomy based on ample powers vested in a local, democratically elected Territorial People's Assembly.

Phase Three - Self-determination

If all parties agree that Phase Three should enter into effect immediately, then the UN begins to prepare a referendum on self-determination to determine the final status of the territory.

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends:

I had no intentions to use this forum to level attacks at the Republic of Indonesia and I hope that I have not offended anyone. I do not have the pretense at being an actor, prosecutor and judge. My point is that it would serve no useful purpose to assign blame today to any particular country.

No one is free from responsibility in the East Timor tragedy. Portugal, Australia, Japan, the US, the UK and France, the UN, have all failed the people of East Timor. However, as much as we can assign blame to these countries, we can also understand their motives, indifference and fears.

East Timorese political leaders, must share responsibility over the tragedy that has affected the people of East Timor. The people of East Timor were and are still the victims of our collective irresponsibility, of the errors of judgment of some, and the indifference of too many.

Portugal is often accused for having abandoned its responsibilities in 1975. However, the years 1974-75 were dramatic ones for Portugal, it was the end of a decaying empire, the virtual collapse of the army and other institutions, and it had no means even if it had the political will to effectively control the situation in East Timor.

The US, having just being forced into a humiliating retreat from Vietnam, was not in a position to play any leadership role on this issue even if it wanted to. Indonesia feared a potential Marxist takeover in East Timor and the disintegration of the Republic if East Timor were to be allowed to become independent. The U.S. was handicapped by its humiliating retreat form Indochina.

We have all failed the people of East Timor. And as I speak here today, I am guided by an appeal made by the UN Secretary General to all parties to observe restraint and to cooperate fully with him in his efforts to bring about a just, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the problem of East Timor.

Let us then work in good faith with the Secretary General and try to find a formula that satisfies all parties. More complex and seemingly intractable issues involving nations that once swore each other mutual destruction are on the way to resolution. We can do no less.

From here I extend my sincere condolences and apologies to the families of Indonesians who lost their lives in the war. It is estimated that at least 5,000 Indonesian soldiers lost their lives in East Timor. During the "general election" in May it is believed that 30 or more Indonesian security personnel died as result of resistance action.

I also extend my sincere condolences and apologies to the families of the East Timorese who were victimized. I strongly condemn any physical abuse, killing or humiliation of Indonesian civilian personnel, migrants, their families or Indonesian military personnel in non-combat duties.

The escalation of violence in East Timor in the last few months, initiated by the Indonesian forces, has been thoroughly documented. This escalation of violence provoked a coordinated guerrilla attack throughout the country. We are now witnessing a spiral of violence in which the victims are always the weaker ones, the defenseless East Timorese population.

This situation must come to an immediate end. Indonesian troop presence in East Timor must be reduced to a minimal level equivalent to the Portuguese troop level in East Timor in 1974, which never exceeded 1000. Remaining troops should be confined to their barracks.

East Timorese resistance fighters should observe a cessation of all armed activities. A protection zone should be created in an agreed region of East Timor where the armed resistance forces and their families can assemble under international humanitarian protection. Prisoners should be released. Torture must end.

A representative office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights should be established in East Timor. Such an office could serve as a useful bridge of dialogue and mediate local conflicts. It should also provide training in international human rights and humanitarian law for the law enforcement agents, the armed forces and police, as well as members of the civil society.

I can only pray and hope that those in power in Indonesia can summon enough courage, humility and inspiration from its own epic struggle for independence from the Dutch, and change course. Mandela is the living proof that nothing is irreversible, no regime is eternal, empires do not last for ever. Only 10 years ago, not too many would have imagined that Mandela would one day emerge as the President of the new South Africa.

The world has changed dramatically in the last few years and the theorists of irreversibility and status

quo have been discredited by the collapse of the USSR.

Vaclav Havel spent years in prison as did tens of thousands of others in Central and Eastern Europe, in the Baltic States, in the Russian gulags. As did Nelson Mandela. As Daw Aung San Suu Kji today.

Who would have thought it possible that the great Armenian people, persecuted for hundreds of years would regain a country called Armenia?

The entire world conspired against the Eritrean people. Today, Eritrea is a shining example for the rest of the world.

Last but not least, for the prophets of doom, for those in government who counsel us with realism, allow me to remind you of a news item of the ever reliable BBC a few years ago. It was sometime in early 1991. I was driving from the small Swiss town of Nyon to the Palais des Nations.

The BBC was telling the story of a Soviet cosmonaut who had gone into space a few months earlier on one of those record-breaking missions.

When he was blasted off from somewhere in the Soviet Union, he carried a passport and a nationality granted to him by the mightiest and most feared military empire in the world. Once he completed his tour of duty for the pride of the socialist motherland he prepared the spacecraft for its return journey to earth. But he no longer had a country to return to. The mighty empire had ceased to exist. He was forced to circle the earth a few more days until people of good will decided where he should land.

For the Opening of the People's Summit

Maude Barlow, Council of Canadians

It is an enormous honour and gives me great pleasure to welcome all the international and Canadian delegates to the 1997 People's Summit on APEC. I do not greet you as delegates from the member "economies" of APEC. We will leave that term to those attending the other APEC Summit - the one for transnational corporations and their political mascots.

We at the real Summit, the People's Summit, reject reducing our complex nation-states with their diverse cultures and communities to the status of mere economies. We refuse to accept their belief that citizens are merely consumers concerned only with the bottom line; we reject their attempt to transform education and health care from a right of all peoples around the world to a good to be bought, sold and traded on the open market; we resist with all our hearts the commodification and commercialization of the natural world to their temples of greed. We know we come from real societies, unique in place, rich with history, dependent on community, land and family, rooted in cultures as ancient as time itself.

So, on behalf of the Canadian Advisory Board and the Vancouver Steering Committee of the People's Summit, I welcome tonight all the wonderful political activists, human and women's rights workers - heroes and heroines all - environment warriors, labour activists, writers, poets and musicians, educators, health care workers, farmers, indigenous peoples, anti-poverty activists, our youth and our elders, who make up the heart and soul of our countries and our communities and who are the real envoys of their dreams and hopes. We gather here in Vancouver to present very different human- and earth-centred alternatives to the future of Asia-Pacific being built by those bureaucrats in the walled enclave across the city.

The groups that make up the Canadian Advisory Board come from a wide variety of backgrounds and hold a range of views about how to influence the APEC process. Our negotiating positions range from those, like my organization, the Council of Canadians, who believe that APEC is a flawed process built on a flawed premise, and reject it outright. We at the Council are concerned that further engagement with the government on this issue will waste precious energy, defuse needed direction and cohesion, and allow the government to move ahead with its APEC commitments in the absence of a clear and present opposition.

Others among us are hopeful that social, environmental and labour standards can be incorporated into APEC itself and are prepared to work with government to this end. They point out that APEC is moving ahead with or without us and believe it imperative to try to influence the process wherever possible. Whatever the differences among us, it is important to say that all have come to their position with integrity and an honest desire to serve and protect their communities and their constituencies.

However, while we may hold a variety of views on how to deal with APEC, we are a united front in our analysis that it is a profoundly misguided process and in our opposition to the market-centred, corporate-driven ideology that fuels it. We abhor the fact that human rights abuses in China and genocide in Indonesia - two of the most repressive countries anywhere on the globe and who together account for two-thirds of APEC's population - will not be on the agenda. Nor will the environment. The deplorable record of Canada's mining companies who have arguably the worst labour and environmental records in the world would not make for polite dinner conversation at the $1,000-a-plate dinner the City of Vancouver is hosting or the exclusive reception for the leaders to be held by the Business Council on National Issues.

Not for discussion will be Placer Dome's massive toxic-waste spill that caused the worst environmental disaster in the history of the Philippines. Nor will anyone raise the fact that Barrick Gold, owned by Peter Munk (the man who thinks Chile's Pinochet is a hero) has fouled rainforests, rivers and wilderness sites in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia. Also taboo at the other APEC Summit will be the topics of child labour, worker rights, or social and economic justice.

These issues, so crucial to us at the People's Summit and to all the citizens of the Asia-Pacific countries,

are not on the table because our governments, no matter what the cultural and economic differences among them, have swallowed whole the mantra of economic globalization and free trade, an ideology that has relegated huge sectors of all our populations to joblessness and poverty and is destroying our common natural heritage at a rate unrivalled in the earth's history.

APEC is now by far the boldest free trade initiative in the world. APEC sets up a timetable for unrestricted foreign investment, "national treatment" rights for transnational corporations, intellectual property rights, unlimited export of profits, massive privatization of state assets, unrestricted cheap imports, access to natural resources by transnational corporations, and the establishment of a superior class of visa for businessmen.

APEC spreads the free trade gospel to whole new areas of the world, and guarantees the continued oppression of the peoples of the region. Increased poverty for workers, the unemployed, children, and indigenous peoples; cuts to wages and assaults on collective bargaining; dramatic cuts to public services leading to the privatization of social security; tax benefits to the wealthy coupled with welfare cuts to the poor; privatization and commercialization of natural resources; the corporatization of energy, transportation, electrical resources and media; and run-down state infrastructure - all these and more are APEC's promise and legacy.

Governments of countries the world over have joined a global political and corporate elite who have more in common with one another than they have with the citizens of their own nations. This elite has abdicated its responsibility to their own peoples and comes together to carve up their territories like so much meat to the economic benefit of their national corporate interests.

And let's be very clear whose interests APEC serves. The federal government's Web site says, "APEC means Business." The APEC Business Advisory Council, ABAC, is all but a formal partner with government in the formulation of policies and in promoting the process. The government of Canada has published the list of "Diamond, Platinum, Gold and Silver Sponsors" - 67 corporations that have given over $9 million to the APEC meeting this week. Seven companies - including Federal Express of Canada, Northern Telecom and General Motors of Canada - have donated a half a million dollars each. These companies have been given a range of special rewards for their money, which include exclusive meeting with senior government leaders. Said the vice-president of the TD Bank, "There's a little something in this for everyone."

Well, not for those not in the inner circle. APEC meetings have become synonymous with human rights abuses, as host governments try to eliminate potential embarrassment to themselves or their guests. In Jakarta in 1994, the government cleaned the streets of itinerants and the poor, cracked down on dissident journalists, and banned meetings and a press conference organized by a small number of regional NGOs who had gathered to express their concerns about APEC. At Osaka, Japan in 1995, the homeless who lived in the square outside the conference venue were forcibly relocated to the other side of town; local journalists reported that the ensuing inter-group conflict led to at least one death.

In Manila, Philippines in 1996, the Canadian delegation, including the Prime Minister, were whisked in air-conditioned limos on specially-cleared roads, past "beautified" slums, to villas so fabulous that the Sultan of Brunei stayed an extra day to buy several. At the signing ceremony held on the former U.S. naval base in Subic, the international press were sequestered with the leaders and not even allowed to roam off the compound. Instead of allowing the free expression of opposition to APEC, the Ramos government set up a state of martial law during the Summit.

Potential troublemakers were threatened with arrest and violence. The Philippine government put out a blacklist of undesirable anti-APEC visitors, and turned away, among others, Jose Ramos Horta. "Friendship lanes" for foreign delegates were set aside, causing huge traffic jams, many accidents and a dozen deaths. Blue dye was poured into Manila Bay to beautify the water; 30 tons of dead fish floated to the surface, and several poor children became violently ill as a result of eating the contaminated fish.

The shanties of many thousands of families were demolished in an attempt to create an "eye-sore-free" zone for visiting dignitaries. When several dozen fishing families returned to their land on Manila Bay to

protest this treatment and erect anti-APEC signs, they were beaten up and their signs burned in front of them. Their land, which has been confiscated and is now owned by a Chinese banker, is slated for the largest super-mall in the world, which will house the first Disneyworld of the region.

A massive and peaceful protest caravan from Manila was met with armed repression, and the highways leading to Subic were lined with thousands of non-military local citizens who had been armed with clubs and told by local authorities to prevent anti-APEC protesters from reaching Subic. I was among several Canadians and other foreigners who were secreted into Subic where we saw the brutality up close. We stayed at a home for the abandoned children of American GIs and Filipino women run by Father Frey Cullen, a social activist for children, and a constant thorn in the side of local power brokers who plan to turn Subic into a Hong Kong-like global free port for the rich.

Surrounded by armed military and goons carrying clubs and bags of urine and feces with which to pelt us, Father Frey led us in the most moving protests I have ever witnessed. Other local unarmed protesters walking to meet us were assaulted by men with baseball bats and badly beaten. On the night before the official signing, we watched (through tears) a play written and performed by a dozen of Manila's estimated 1.5 million street children, in which they told the story of their country. With amazing political sophistication, they told of their rape, first by the Japanese, then by the Americans, and now by the transnational corporations in the form of APEC.

A people's leader from New Zealand, Jane Kelsey, asks "If governments will go this far to look good at a meeting, what will they do to create an attractive free trade and investment regime and lure foreign investors to their shores? Who and what will they sacrifice along the way? "

It is with a great sense of shame that we Canadians are witnessing similar activities on the part of our governments here. While the brutal dictator Suharto is being welcomed with open arms, Canada has turned away several workers from Asia Pacific to our Summit and refused to meet with East Timorese activists for fear of embarrassing Suharto. The Canadian government has declared the other APEC Summit site off limits to us dissenters. Well, Mr. Chretien, I have news for you. We weren't put off by the bully boys in Manila and we won't be denied our fundamental rights for peaceful protest whenever and wherever we need to be this week.

Here is our task. We must understand that APEC is not a stand-alone entity. It is one important component of a deeply integrated system of free trade and investment regimes, like NAFTA and the proposed MAI, international policing agencies like the World bank, and transnational corporate lobby groups like the Economic Forum who meet yearly at Davos, Switzerland with the political leaders of the world, that are committed to the common goal of global free markets without citizen or environmental constraints. Our fight against APEC must be part of a larger fight against the monoculture of this global creed.

We must use this occasion and the Issues Forums and all our meetings this week to seek common ground to build an international base of resistance and alternatives to economic globalization of which APEC is only one manifestation. It must be our goal and most urgent task to bring the rule of law to global capital and restore the democratic rights of ordinary people all over the world.

Since leadership out of this mess does not seem to be coming from the traditional places anymore - not from politicians, political parties, the church or academia - it is up to us - working people, the unemployed, young people, old people, people of colour, first nations people - to take up the mantle. We are going to have to form the citizen movements in our countries and across borders to take back democracy in their absence.

Central to our alternatives is the recognition that peoples around the world, have the right to productive and fulfilling employment, food, shelter, education, pensions, unemployment insurance, health care, universally accessible public services, a safe and clean environment - food, water, and air, - the safekeeping of our wilderness spaces, and to develop and celebrate our diverse cultures and freely communicate our distinct experiences.

If governments will not recognize and defend these rights, we will have to find new forms of action

that will. But we know that we cannot do is alone.

So we come together from countries across the Asia Pacific to tell each other our stories - each one so different, and yet so much the same. We come together to describe how corporate rule is replacing democracy in our countries. We come together to challenge, in the strongest possible terms, the dominant values of the global economy, and to stand in clear opposition to them. We come together to learn from one another, to share success stories, to explore alternatives.

We come together to remember the words of Martin Luther King who said, "Legislation may not change the heart, but it can restrain the heartless" as we call for the regulation of the marketplace and the fierce protection of the environment. We come together to talk about popular sovereignty, to learn from one another, to tell each other about our heroes, to be each other's heroes, to create a moral vision. We come together to take ourselves and our movement seriously, because we have no other choice.

Fair trade, full employment, co-operation, cultural diversity, democratic control, fair taxation, environmental stewardship, community, public accountability, equality, social justice: these are the touchstones of our vision at our APEC Summit - the real summit, the People's Summit - and we must celebrate them and each other as we build our alternative world. It will take the rest of our lives even to begin the task before us. But not to try would betray the generations that have come before us and fought so hard for a different world and greatly diminish the dreams of all those who come after.

Besides, what else have we got to do?

The Preamble

This preamble was created by the participants at the 1997 People's Summit on APEC. The results of the Issue Forums, which met as part of the Summit, are to be attached to this preamble. Individuals and organizations were invited to sign on to the statement at the time of and/or the time following the Summit.

It has become manifestly clear that trade liberalization has had destructive consequences for the vast majority of people and the environment. The voices of people's movements, women's movements, workers' movements, peasants' movements, youth movements, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, churches, environmental groups, human rights groups and concerned individuals, are united in firm opposition to the impact of government implemented, corporate-driven globalization and have predicted its devastating effects.

Financial deregulation by governments allowed massive profiteering by international speculators and brought down the Mexican peso, leaving job loss, lowered wages and greater impoverishment in its wake. The recent Asian financial crisis is wreaking the same havoc on the so-called "tiger economies", and now threatens the whole neo-liberal paradigm.

In all parts of the world, both the North and South, human rights are under attack; irreversible damage is being done to the environment; social programmes are being dismantled; public education and other essential social services are being privatized, and unemployment has reached crisis proportions.

Therefore, we the participants at the 1997 Vancouver People's Summit on APEC, building upon the declarations from Kyoto and Manila, raise our voices again, to:

- reiterate the rejection of the basic philosophy, framework and assumptions of the model of free trade and trade liberalization implemented by governments through the APEC process, as well as through the WTO, the OECD and established trade agreements throughout the world;
- reassert that genuine development must be based on the universality of human rights and gender equity; must be centred on the needs of people and nature, realize social and economic justice, especially for peasants, fisher folk and migrant workers; respect internationally recognized labour rights, and ensure that all peoples, especially the most vulnerable such as women, children, indigenous peoples and displaced peoples are secure in their basic rights to food, sources of subsistence, health and education, human dignity, integrity of communities, environmental security and self-determination;
- condemn the failure of the governments of APEC to heed the warning that the form of indiscriminate, unregulated economic growth and trade which APEC advocates delivers the opposite of people-centred development because it enables governments to abdicate responsibilities to their peoples, and leave them at the mercy of transnational corporations and international financial institutions who are accountable to no one;
- demand that governments, in fulfilling their responsibility for human rights, accept their responsibility for the harmful impact of the neo-liberal model of trade which is evident throughout Asia and the Pacific, especially in Southeast Asia, and in the visible devastation of peoples and their environment throughout the region; end authoritarian and militaristic rule; regulate corporate activities; commit to the implementation of a participatory, emancipatory model of economic and social development, and commit to the realization of accountable, democratic governance, all of which is in line with the diverse recommendations of the Issue Forums of this Summit;
- and commit to working together in solidarity as we act on the resolutions of the various Issues Forums and advance towards a new, just, and democratic social order that brings equality and fulfilment to the peoples of the world.

Youth Forum

Final Report

Goal

The goal of this project was to raise the level of awareness on the part of youth of the potential social, political and economic effects which the rapid economic integration and industrial growth of the Pacific Rim region will have on them, both now and in the future.

All the evaluations indicate that this was achieved and the Forum was a success. Although the participants are by no means experts on Asia Pacific issues after their participation in the conference they have learned to look at issues critically and have an overview of current issues in the region.

Developmental Objectives

1 To generate dialogue and discussion between youth from BC, the rest of Canada and the eighteen APEC nations regarding the effects that rapid economic integration will have on them in a variety of areas, including access to education, job availability and working conditions and environmental protection;

2 To ensure that the opinions and concerns of youth (aged 16-19) are included with the agenda of the APEC Peoples Summit;

3 To give youth an opportunity to develop their leadership skills by planning and executing an international forum on issues of vital concern to them.

Development Objectives Achieved:

(1.1) 86 youth spent five days discussing their concerns relative to the three issues at hand, gaining both a sense of how other Canadians also their peers overseas feel about APEC and trade liberalization.

(1.2) The resolutions and recommendations of the Youth Forum were included within the plenary discussion of the Peoples Summit for the first time. Next years summit will hopefully use the results of this years Youth Forum as a basis for their own recommendations.

(1.3) An eight member Youth Steering Committee whose members attend local high schools organized the forum in collaboration with the Forum Coordinator who was 22. All of the facilitators and most of the presenters were under the age of 25. This was very much a conference organized by Youth for Youth.

(1.4) Five of the participants have gone on to begin organizing global issue clubs and other workshops in their own communities. Some of the participants are continuing to work in preparation for next years summit via a working committee that CoDevelopment Canada is organizing.

Specific Objectives:

1. To generate participation from 60 youth participants from British Columbia, 20 from the rest of Canada and 18 from the eighteen APEC nations in the Youth Forum;
2. To furnish time and space for speakers to represent the three main issues that the forum will be focusing on, namely access to education, the environment and job availability and working conditions;
3. To foster the inclusion of two individuals to represent youth at the plenary of the People's Summit;
4. To provide an opportunity for youth to express their concerns to government leaders before the APEC Leaders Summit takes place.

Objectives Achieved:

(2.1) 62 youth from across BC, 8 from across Canada and 16 from China, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and the USA attended the Forum.

(2.2) Our speakers included Svend Robinson, MP Burnaby-Kingsway as the opening keynote speaker on November 7; Seth Klein of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and David Orchard of Citizens Concerned About Free Trade on November 8; Maura Parte of the Canadian Federation of Students and Larry Kuehn of the British Columbia Teachers Federation on November 9; Steven Shrybman of the West Coast Environmental Law Association and Dyana Timmer of the Environmental Youth Alliance on November 10; and Raymond Chan, Secretary of State for the Asia Pacific and Libby Davies, MP Vancouver East as closing keynote speakers on November 11.

(2.3) Due to time constraints at the Peoples Summit plenary, the Coordinator presented the resolutions and recommendations back to the plenary.

(2.4) Raymond Chan personally took a copy of the resolutions for distribution to the offices of Lloyd Axworthy, minister of Foreign Affairs. Although Lloyd Axworthy was unable to meet with representatives from the Forum, his policy assistant did meet with the Forum coordinator. Also, two Members of Parliament were available for questions and answers during their addresses.

Background and Rationale of Project

The effects of increasing economic integration and industrialization in the Pacific Rim region have effects that are spread around the world, particularly within British Columbia due to our geographical proximity to many of these nations. The rapid economic growth has resulted in the formation of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, a group of eighteen countries who are actively involved in economic trade with each other and are seeking to lessen barriers to such trade activity. Yet, their annual meeting is held behind closed doors, and it is not clear what issues are being addressed. It is unclear if the interests of different sectors of society, including youth in the Pacific Rim, are being given discourse. There has never been a forum directed primarily towards youth at previous APEC Leaders Summits.

The concern that the issues related to youth are not being addressed is especially disconcerting as the decisions being made by the APEC nations will have a direct effect on their future welfare. The Youth Forum seeks to alert youth now about the potential effects that APEC will have on their lives, relative to three main issue topics.

By having the forum two weeks prior to both the Peoples Summit and the Leaders Summit, media exposure was facilitated. This helped to ensure that people are made aware of APEC and some of the major issues not being addressed, as well as providing some time for the youth participants to formulate their own agenda (through documentation and dialogue with keynote speakers and government officials) for their role in the Peoples Summit.

Inputs

The Youth Forum Coordinator began work on this project in late May, six months prior to the Forum itself. The entire organizing committee ranged in age from 16 to 24, except for the advisory committee, consisting of individuals within the Vancouver area who had previous experience with international conferences. China, Chile, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and the USA were represented at this Forum. The main inputs that this initiative incurred were the travel expenses of the international delegates, and also the travel expenses of participants from within Canada and BC, and the transit expenses within Vancouver. Three meals for the 85 participants were catered, as well as other meals provided by the host families who were reimbursed by CoDevelopment Canada. Ten facilitators worked with each of the workshops and the steering committee to assist them with the process of developing the recommendations; honoraria were provided to these individuals for their services. The participants from Chile, Mexico, China and Korea were not fluent in English; translators were needed to ensure that they could fully participate in the activities and dialogue. As mentioned, a web page was developed by the Community Learning Network and the Victoria International Development Education Association for the purposes of

the Forum; a moderator was given an honorarium for the services he provided. The costs of communication (telephone costs, postage and electronic mail) with the participants prior to the Forum both locally and internationally accounted for a sizable portion of the budget, as did the costs of office supplies, primarily paper. Lastly there was the costs incurred via wages for the Youth Forum Coordinator for his six month contract.

Project Description, Including Activities

The three issue topics that were addressed are:

1. Access to education;
2. The environment, both immediately and in the future;
3. Access to jobs, health programs and social security.

An Internet site devoted to the Youth Forum was developed where concerns relative to these issues were posted. This site also offered the opportunity to leave text based messages regarding other issues that are currently included within the agenda, in order to facilitate the concerns of participants not within British Columbia; the URL is http://www.islandnet.com/vglobe/codev/codev1.html. This page has now been expanded to include the resolutions and recommendations of the Forum, and will continue to be available both for discussion and information purposes. Three days out of the five were devoted to each of the three issue topics respectively. The framework of the conference was focused around a series of twenty-one workshops and nine speakers, with the workshops occurring from November 8 to 10. Please see appendix B and C for a more detailed summary of the workshops and the agenda.

A Youth Steering Committee was established to determine the work agenda and structure of the conference. This committee consisted of a group of eight youths from the Vancouver area, with very diverse backgrounds. Some were born in other countries, and can speak various languages. This committee was chosen by the Youth Forum Coordinators on the basis of the interest level of each participant. While the Steering Committee was assisted by adults experienced in international conferences, the direction and content of the conference was decided by the youth participants. The main tasks of the Steering Committee were to devise the resolutions and recommendations (see Appendix A) based on the outcomes of the workshops. This process involved ten facilitators, who were present during each of the workshops sessions, which were ninety minutes in duration. A facilitator was present in each workshop to summarize what the conclusions and recommendations were out of each session. These notes were then passed on to the Steering Committee for final revision. Two facilitators assisted the Committee in this process. Each day between November 8 and 10 ended with a group debriefing, where a facilitator worked with sub-groups of around 15 participants to get feedback on the days events, and any problems or issues that arose over the day. This proved extremely helpful to ensure that major problems were worked out for the following day. It is worth reiterating that the organizing body were all under the age of 25.

Outputs

The resolutions and recommendations were then brought back to the plenary on November 11, so that the participants were aware of the outcomes of each day. Certain issues were analyzed further during this plenary session, most notably the issue of Child Labour.

The Report was then presented by the Forum Coordinator at the Peoples Summit on November 22 and was also available in print form for distribution at this plenary. This report was also personally given to Raymond Chan, Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific on November 11. The report was also mailed to all Heads of State of the APEC countries.

After the Youth Forum two Steering Committee members, a Chilean participant and two participants from the Philippines did a vocal and theater presentation at Johnson Heights Secondary School in Surrey,

British Columbia. This presentation ensured that the conclusions derived from the discussions will reach beyond the participants to other British Columbian youth, as well as strengthening leadership training and public speaking skills on the part of those youth that present. The forum coordinator was also invited to the Federal Asia Connects Program and his participation was very well received.

Results Indicators

The Youth Forum resolutions and recommendations will serve as a basis for the organizers of the 1998 Youth Forum to formulate their own agenda; those topics or issues that were seen by the 1997 youth participants as not receiving enough attention can thus be further examined. This report will also be passed on to other key non-governmental organizations, youth groups, labour unions and other interested parties. The embassies of the other APEC nations were also contacted and will be forwarded a copy of the resolutions and recommendations. The youth participants will have the opportunity to raise awareness of any issues that may be of concern to them. Many of the participants began the Forum with a limited understanding of the issues at hand and how APEC relates to them but left with a much fuller appreciation of the issues. Five of the participants have begun to organize global issue clubs in their own high schools, as well as developing workshops to engage their peers on some of the issues that were explored at the Forum. Also, the recent statement to the media by Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding the fundamental need for inclusion of human rights issues within the APEC trade liberalization agenda can be seen as a direct result of his involvement with the Peoples Summit. In total, three members of Parliament were present at this Forum.

Risks and Lessons Learned

The major concern among the participants was the fact that not enough attention was given to the other countries that comprise APEC. The main reason for this was due to the difficulty in bringing in speakers from overseas due to the financial constraints that were faced. Also, the uncertainty within this project lay within the multiple languages that were encountered among the APEC youth representatives and the communication difficulties that may have arisen. However, the services of translators were employed for Spanish, Korean and Mandarin speaking participants; there were negligible difficulties in ensuring that the dialogues at the forum were understood by all those involved. The greatest difficulty that was encountered was outreach; while many youth were aware of the Forum, there were also many who were not. Outreach for this Forum had begun six months previous to the Forum, yet perhaps was not wide enough. As well, the fact that the outreach began in the summer when most youth were out of school or out of town further complicated the process. Subsidies were made available to participants across Canada as well as for international participants to ensure their attendance. Some of the participants indicated that the schedule was too crammed with information, and should have been spaced out more, particularly the workshops. In terms of the future, the most apparent risk is that students' organizations have been outlawed in the host country for next years summit, Malaysia, since 1976. This years Forum has been in contact with an organization in Malaysia who has indicated interest in organizing next years Youth Forum, and the Youth Forum Coordinator will be travelling throughout Southeast Asia in 1998. Due to the nature of limited organization capabilities in Malaysia it may prove difficult to organize a similar project for the 1998 APEC Peoples Summit, yet only time can tell how this will progress.

Impact

This forum presented youth with a very unique opportunity to become more aware of what Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation is among peers in a setting that was relaxed and informal, yet focused. Over the five days it became very apparent to the participants that APEC and other trade agreements do indeed have an effect on their futures; so much so that some of the participants committed themselves to a working

committee for next years Forum. The Forum inspired a lot of critical thinking about the issues at hand, especially regarding the somewhat uncritical nature of how the popular media has portrayed APEC and the entire issue of trade liberalization.

Both student newspapers from the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University covered

Both student newspapers from the University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University covered the Forum, as well as the CBC, BCTV, VTV, CBC Radio, CBC Newsworld, Coop Radio and participants submitted articles to their school papers. Our funders were acknowledged for their support in all public presentations to ensure people were aware of their crucial support. The experience of talking and working with youth from overseas was an invaluable experience for all involved, especially to gain a sense of solidarity between youth from all of the APEC nations and the problems they face as youth in their home countries.

Workshop resolutions and recommendations

A Jobs

Saturday, November 8, 1997

Labour Economics

This workshop focused on the problems of working youth and how APEC will affect the employment opportunities available to youth. One of the contributing factors to youth unemployment is the mass of qualified people desperately searching for work. The result of this is lower wages and fewer benefits, denying youth the opportunity to acquire jobs that will support them at an adequate standard of living.

Another major concern shown by the delegates, was the inadequate education of many youth, especially outside North America, and the role corporations play in the education system in all 18 of the APEC economies. The delegates thought that governments, individuals, and parents should contribute more to the costs of public education. It is of concern to the youth at the conference that as trade increases around the Pacific Rim, there will be an increase in human rights violations, and that labour intensive industries will move to Asia.

Native Youth Movement

The group voiced concern that APEC is designed only for corporations and the wealthy, not being concerned with the interests of the general public. All APEC cares about is the extraction of resources from the land, therefore people must ensure that governments strictly enforce their control and regulatory powers, over the operations of transnational corporations.

Another concern brought up in the workshop, was that the ability of First Nations people to preserve their traditional cultures, is right now being taken away by greedy corporations. The only possible benefit that could come out of this would be if First Nations communities could come together and help fight for the preservation of their respective cultures. The group believes that APEC will affect the First Nations people in Canada by exploiting their culture through the rapidly growing tourist industry. It is also believed that the unemployment rate of First Nations people will continue to rise due to cutbacks in the education system.

Primate World Relief

The two main reasons why females become domestic workers are: their need for income resources; and so that after they gain citizenship, they can bring family members into their new country. By doing so, they are usually rewarded with a higher social status in their native country. Countries, using them as human exports, encourage these people to "go away" causing the unemployment rate to go down. When these workers send back their incomes earned in the foreign country, their country of origin benefits.

Another problem relating to migrant workers these days, is that the developed nations are consuming all of the parental resources - taking away the mothers of children in developing nations. This results in a

continuing cycle of exploitation. For example, a child that is raised without a parent may have problems with education, which will in turn lead to problems finding employment.

Governments, seeing these workers as resources, can actually benefit; because they can depend on the cheap labour available, they can cease spending money on social programs, such as universal day care.

cheap labour available, they can cease spending money on social programs, such as universal day care. APEC is worsening the situation for domestic workers because it discourages policies and regulations

APEC is worsening the situation for domestic workers because it discourages policies and regulations which will help to protect these migrant workers. In other words, labour laws are being undermined. There is a systematic encouragement of mistreatment inflicted by those who use the domestic workers. Also, it is forcing everyone to work longer hours; this includes both the domestic workers and their employers who work outside the home.

The demand for domestic workers by developed countries, tells us about their employment situations: these countries have a low unemployment rate, the jobs that are available are ones that nobody is willing to take.

The actions that youth can take include: educating ourselves and others, helping to set up support groups for domestic workers, pressuring the government for policies which protect the rights of migrant workers, by becoming advocates for domestic workers. The youth believe that all workers around the world should be treated with respect and dignity.

Racial Justice

The effect of APEC on many aboriginal families and youth has been tremendous. There have been many human rights violations in countries such as Papua New Guinea and Indonesia. The aboriginal peoples there have been exploited by imposed western economic needs.

The abuse and exploitation of aboriginal people has caused numerous difficulties for indigenous societies. We have many concerns about these difficulties. For example: How do you protect women? How do you distribute wealth fairly? How do you protect children? How do you advocate for your community concerns?

One question that everyone wants to know is: (1) Does APEC respect my culture? (2) Does APEC respect the value systems of different cultures? (3) What can be done to reduce the racial injustices that have been related to economic growth?

In reference to aboriginal peoples in Canada, the government has shown very little interest. In some cases there have been severe cuts to education and forced adoption of native children. These two topics are particular indications that the Canadian government does not support youth, even though it defends, politically, the Rights of the Child.

One of the most significant statements of the session was that racism is a hidden part of the APEC agenda. APEC represents the oppression of people, and racism, under the banner of APEC, can be linked to crimes against the environment.

Co-op Radio

Most of the emphasis in this workshop was displayed through the issue of education. Co-operative radio can act as a community message board to educate people about the issues at hand. Education is power, and by raising awareness about these issues we can work together in unison to achieve the goal at hand. APEC and other globalization agendas do not support non-profit community organizations such as Co-op radio; this will have a negative effect on the budgets of many community organizations and in some cases even threaten their existence. The task of youth in addressing APEC is to educate people who do not know much about these organizations; for these organizations play an important role in teaching us how to communicate our concerns to others, as well as teaching adults to listen to the voices of youth.

Rediscovery

In the Rediscovery workshop, many issues were looked at and discussed. It seemed that there was frustration among many people in the workshop when the topic of "changes in the environment" was addressed. It was noted that these changes were out of balance with nature and that many places around the world were not only losing thousands of acres of land, but their sense of community as well. Both local and international delegates had many of the same concerns and comments about our environment.

The youth shared some memorable encounters with nature which seemed to have quite a profound impact on the participants. Many also said that it was their natural surroundings that kept them grounded and rooted during rough and disturbing times. This is proof of the importance of nature and the fragility of our ecosystem. When we looked at what the future had to offer us, many expressed negative feelings and concerns. This workshop allowed youth a chance to voice their opinions and frustrations about how the ecosystem is dealt with today and how we can better deal with it for tomorrow.

Child Labour

Child labour is the employment of children who can be considered too young to work. They are usually subjected to horrific conditions; the children work for very long hours and get paid insufficient amounts of money, which go to support their families in what ever little way they can.

The amount of effort required to make any radical changes towards the child labour issue was discussed in this workshop. The first step taken by the delegates was to find the root of the problem. Many participants thought that the parents of child labourers need to educate themselves more so they wouldn't have to send their uneducated children to work. Children are usually encouraged to go to work and support their families rather than going to school. What can the youth do after this conference in order to resolve this serious issue?

APEC concentrates on economics which increases the likelihood of child labour. Since there are countless examples of child labour in the world today, many people become discouraged when looking at the big picture. However, by first starting small, we can make changes through struggles over a period of time. It is us, the youth of today, that must take action to create an awareness among our peers, in order to eradicate such exploitation which is evident everywhere in our world today.

Recommendations:

- Government needs to continue to strictly control the power of corporations.
- APEC countries should abide by common rules on human rights and the environment. If any one of these rules is violated, that country would then have their APEC membership revoked.
- Governments must ensure that employers are obeying all the labour laws.
- Governments, parents and the public should contribute to education and youth job strategies.
- We should continue efforts to eradicate child labour in South East Asia, the Pacific Rim and around the world.
- Native communities must have the right to come together and fight for the preservation of their culture and land.
- The governments of the APEC economies must make all domestic workers aware of their fundamental human rights, and the governments of developing countries must have a responsibility to protect their workers from abuse.
- We must take advantage of community organizations in order to educate people about APEC and teach adults to listen to the voice of youth.
- Encounters with nature should be encouraged. They are valuable and important experiences, which lead to an increased appreciation of the ecosystem.

B Education
Sunday, November 9, 1997

The theme of the second day of workshops was education. Education is a major concern that youth have in discussing APEC. There are many APEC issues which tie in or are related to education.

American Friends Service Committee

School systems tend to ignore the realities of history, omitting issues such as slavery, aboriginal affairs, etc.. In this workshop, the delegates felt that the government does not adequately promote tolerance of other cultures and their history. Also, the lack of understanding leads to prejudice and stereotyping, ultimately causing racism. We will not learn to co-exist if we only focus on business education. Globalization would have better effects if we have cultural education which emphasizes communication and understanding. The delegates concluded that if one of the implications of free trade is to create a global village, the education system has to be geared to represent the diversity of the world. It has to be honest and truthful.

British Columbia Teachers Federation

The first issue discussed was the favouring of higher education to the upper classes by the high cost of tuition. Another main concern was who should decide what is taught in schools: the governments, the teachers or the students? Aside from that, many youth expressed concern that teachers are not putting in their full effort and are just teaching for the money. Also, computer literacy is difficult to obtain, especially since many teachers lack the skills to use computers. Another debated topic was corporate intervention in school curriculums. Racism surfaced, as a topic of debate.

Canadian Federation of Students

Through discussion, the group agreed that public education is generally more affordable, more accessible to people, and has better regulation standard set by the government. It is also more under public control. This is compared to privatization, where it is not as affordable, the curriculum is industry focused, tuition freezes are not applicable, and lacking in the organization of student unions.

When globalization was discussed, the findings included both pros and cons. The pros of globalization include the increase of co-operation, communication and learning from each other. The cons are the homogenizing of distinct cultures, resulting in the loss of national identity, a dominance of the English language and the favouring of wealthier nations.

LICDAT (Lou Island Community Development and Awareness Team)

The definition of education is a chance to learn what is important to you and to bring your ideas out from within, rather than adopting others or having other's ideas imposed on us. Being a part of community life and learning through experience is a traditional way of learning. This is different, however, to the education system in Papua New Guinea. In Papua New Guinea, learning is about educating oneself about other countries and other cultures. When they are forced to learn English and French, Papua New Guineans lose touch with their cultures. Education is not readily accessible to people since they have to buy into the market economy in order to become educated; Papua New Guineans are told that they need education to 'survive', and are forced to find ways of earning money to provide youth with education.

Youth for Social Justice

The MAI "(Multilateral Agreement on Investments), is an agreement that will see government power over corporations dwindle severely. Increased privatization, homogenization of cultures, and the imperialistic domination of developing countries, are all effects of the MAI. In addition, as social programs such as

education and health care are privatized, their availability and affordability will be diminished. Under MAI, corporations would have the power to ignore environmental standards as government regulation will be minimal. If corporations are expelled as a result, they will always be welcome in a poorer, more desperate part of the world.

(*The MAI is an investment liberalization agreement being negotiated by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. It seeks to affect the rules which govern how a country privatizes its assets. It would treat foreign companies the same or better than domestic ones. There would be not restrictions on the movement of profit and capital and would let corporations sue governments for monetary damages.)

Self Help Research Association

"Why is APEC important to you?" For the delegates, the biggest concern was the rising cost of education, and unemployment. APEC, which promotes globalization, means that our world is getting smaller. One of the strongest points put across, was that the voice of today's youth is the voice of the future. Therefore, it is crucial that youth be listened to now.

Youth Voice

APEC is currently dominated by corporations and the wealthy. How do the youth get a voice in it? APEC will affect education, and environment changing people's cultures. Economic expansion resulting from APEC will diminish the power of the people and instead give corporations virtually unlimited power. Since these changes will affect all people, we do have a right to be listened to. Unfortunately, the right to be heard has become something we have to fight for. Fighting to be heard is more difficult in some areas than others. It is only with cooperation among all the peoples of the APEC economies, will the voice of the people be taken to account by APEC.

Recommendations:

- Institutions are to be challenged to listen to those who are affected by their decisions.
- People should not be penalized for addressing their concerns.
- Education should equip people with skills on how to deal with social change.
- History lessons should reveal a two-sided story i.e. the history of Canada should include an indigenous perspective.
- Introduce special classes based on racism awareness.
- Teachers should be kept up-to-date on technology and offered courses in expanding their knowledge.
- Limit corporate influence in schools.
- Push for public education and stop funding cuts to education.
- Governments should maintain their powers over corporations in order to guarantee that people's interests be heard by corporations.
- The public should be informed about MAI and a referendum should be held whether it should be accepted in its respective country.
- The MAI should be modified so that governments will not have to give up as much power, corporations will not have priorities over citizens' rights, and that environmental concerns be taken into consideration.
- Globalization should involve cultural exchange, not domination and homogenization.

C Environment

Monday, November 10, 1997

Farm Folk City Folk

Sustainable agriculture is agriculture which is not detrimental to our environment. Indigenous harvesting, permaculture and community farming are examples of this balanced system of agriculture. In this workshop, we discovered that not only farmers, but natural life, urban dwellers and governments contribute to this form of agriculture. The government has the power to pressure farmers and horticulturists to avoid the use of chemicals, which are currently having an overall negative effect on our natural surroundings. We, the youth of today, being the leaders of tomorrow, will have a huge impact on whether agriculture will be sustainable. It is important to raise awareness about this type of agriculture in all countries.

Sierra Club of Canada

The major topic discussed in this workshop was how we can help to prevent climate change. Cars with air-conditioning are damaging to the environment. It was thought that people should think about the type of car they purchase and about the alternatives such as public transit. Many delegates agreed that the smog and noise from cars and factories disrupts communities and increases the average temperature. Another cause of climate change is deforestation. It affects the environment by causing soil erosion and weather patterns. These topics fit into APEC and the big picture since the wealthy are the ones that buy the products which lead to climatic changes. Since these issues concern us all, the participants thought that we, the youth should ponder about human rights and advertisements of corporations.

South Pacific Peoples' Foundation

During today's South Pacific Peoples' Foundation workshop, the youth participants heard that APEC will increase the mining, logging, and pollution around the world. In relation to these facts, they felt that companies do not respect the environmental laws of the countries in which they extract resources.

Lifecycles

The workshop was presented as a game involving the trade of materials, manpower and natural resources. At the conclusion of this workshop, the delegates felt that the rich nations had much more control over the poorer nations. As well, poorer nations had less understanding of the value of goods in the world market. Throughout this game, delegates realized there was no fair trade; every country had different starting points (resources, technology, and labour force), and so there wasn't a lot of balance between the countries. It was realized that the disparity of wealth did affect the environment because countries with a lot of resources are high in waste. If these resource-rich countries had limited resources, necessity would lead to higher efficiency. The delegates also realized that resource-rich economies fall into a boom and bust cycle: they sell off resources and get rich, but then even out. The rich get richer, the poor get poorer. The rich get access to resources of poor countries in exchange for technology.

Biotechnology

The main issues brought up by this workshop were the sources and applications of biotechnology. The delegates were worried that biotechnological advances are becoming geared more toward profit rather than the benefit of human kind. Especially notable were the issues of cloning and the use of cattle in areas that could produce more nutritional value through the planting of crops. Another two issues of concern were: the motives of large companies, which may often prefer to provide expensive cures rather than relatively inexpensive preventative methods, and the violation of safety regulations by companies operating in developing countries.

Co-op Radio

This workshop consisted of a debate: peaceful revolution vs. violent revolution. The delegates talked about peaceful strategies such as protests, strikes and boycotts. Boycotts were thought to hurt workers - what we need to do is create solidarity. Boycotts have been shown to work in certain situations such as when Greenpeace threatened to get Europeans to boycott the BC lumber industry. It was said that violence in itself doesn't solve anything and should be a last option. Another statement which was effective was violence is useless unless it takes place on a mass scale - i.e. a popular revolution. Corporations are at the core of the problem and we need to hit them where it counts - stop buying their products. Less profit equals less power. Our generation has grown up under the influence of corporations all our lives. The media has conditioned us to be apathetic and think we have no power to change things but we do especially if we unite.

Recommendations:

- For sustainable agriculture to be possible there needs to be a balance between institutional and environmental concerns. We should address environmental issues and think about what legacy we are leaving for people in the future.
- All communities and regions must have equal opportunities to provide for their social, economic, and environmental needs.
- Governments should increase their funding for education and public transit systems.
- There should be specific pressure, not only on the Canadian government but also on governments around the world to restrict and regulate the practices of private companies.
- We must think about the effects of cars, factories, and deforestation on the environment.
- There should be more international laws and legislation to preserve the environment.
- Countries should legislate the right to educate and organize so that their governments are not compromising the resources in return for profit.
- APEC should be subject to international laws governed by the UN.
- People should have some local control over education.
- There should be other organizations that monitor APEC; they should be non-profit, and in the interests of people and not for profit.
- We demand that APEC economies have more education on the environment and sustainable development.
- APEC should advocate for more stringent licensing.
- The UN or another over-arching structure should have more control and should help all nations equally.
- Universal regulations for biotechnological products and cloning should be implemented.
- Incentives for biotechnological companies to research methods that will benefit not only the company, but the general populace as well should be implemented.
- We should avoid consumerism and boycott corporation's products.
- We need to avoid being cynical and pessimistic: although there are noisy answers and no one thing works alone, change is possible. Never give up.
- We need to unite as people and as workers and make others aware of how they are being cheated.
- We need to try to become independent of the constraints of our society.
- The APEC summit should be open to the media and not held behind closed doors.

Asia-Pacific Charter of People's Rights: Globalizing Solidarities

Forum populaire sur l'APEC

Groups and individuals working to defend and assert Pacific Rim People's Rights gathered in Montreal on November 15th, 1997 with the aim of building solidarity for people's empowerment.
This working document was adopted and identifies key issues concerning the peoples of the 18 APEC member countries. The document serves as a starting point and debate on peoples' rights in the context of globalization.

Against market globalization
Against the commodification of our rights
Against globalization - a war machine used against peoples
And for People's Sovereignty

In solidarity with those struggling,
We assert, therefore, respect for the fundamental rights of all peoples to a decent standard of living, to health, education and work in a society that guarantees equality, solidarity and democracy, and that fully respects the right to development, peace and sustainable development.

We therefore adopt
The Charter of People's Rights
The right:

to food, clothing and shelter;
to health, education and work;
to full equality, without exploitation or discrimination;
on the basis of solidarity between peoples and societies;
through democracy and sustainable development.

We assert:

- that governments are responsible for guaranteeing the full realization of these civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development;
- that any policy that does not allow for the realization of these rights, with freedom, of course,
- but also, equality and fraternity, is a policy opposed to the rights of peoples to development and to a healthy and sustainable environment;
- that it is the responsibility of each government to provide unconditional support for the democratic development of all peoples through social justice;
- and that it is the responsibility, in its own context and with its own forms of struggle, to demand these universal rights and give them specific expression.

We see

- that the realization of these rights is incompatible with the current APEC liberalization project (Kyoto Declaration, Japan, 14 November 1995), and that it will be impossible to apply these principles without fundamental changes to the social system.

We demand that *Governments participating in the APEC "Summit"*
(Note: text in italics constitute points that needed further discussion)

- undertake the implementation of a democratic program to guarantee justice, ensure dignity and provide

for the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of all peoples, and protect our natural heritage for the children of our children (Declaration: Manila Peoples Forum on APEC - November 21-24, 1996), and that they ratify and apply international conventions and agreements on human and labour rights (Kyoto, Nov. 1995).

We will struggle

- to establish, in our countries, a social, economic, political and cultural order that will preserve us from foreign domination and protect us from exploitation and oppression, enable us to develop our resources and our talents for the greatest good of our peoples, and rely on international cooperation based on equality, respect and mutual benefit. (Declaration of People's Conference Against Imperial Globalization, Quezon, Philippines, 23 Nov. 1996)

We will struggle

- to ensure that in each of our countries, the principles of this Charter of Peoples' Rights are formally adopted and dictate the actions of those who govern us.

1 - Fair Trade

States must guarantee the conditions of fair trade.

We consider

- unfair and unacceptable any trade based on violation of the rights of peoples and human beings, including the right to sustainable development, a healthy environment, and food security
- putting an end to the impunity of corporations which violate those rights.
- ways must be found to provide consumers with guarantees that the products they buy are not produced through the social and environmental exploitation of marginalized regions.

2 - National Sovereignty and Democratic Development

We assert

- that relationships between sovereigns are contingent upon people's self-determination.

This implies:

- that peoples must participate democratically, freely and genuinely in policy-making including policy development and implementation, which cannot be left to the laws of profit and markets;
- that corruption is incompatible with democracy and that there is no democracy without accountability
- that national sovereignty extends to resources.

We denounce

- the use of debt as a way of depriving peoples of their right to self-determination and sovereignty.

3 - Social, Economic, Human, and People's Rights

In response to multiple violations of rights caused by liberation policies,

We assert again

- that human rights are universal, indivisible, independent and interconnected (Vienna 1993);
- that the systematic violation of the economic and social rights of peoples is an international crime that must not go unpunished. It is the responsibility of the State to respect, protect and promote all human rights and insure the right to due process;

- that the liberalization and the intensification of international trade exchanges has led to impoverishment, unemployment and the exclusion of whole sectors of societies, and that women and children often suffer the greatest hardship as a result.

4 - Right to Land and Food Security

We assert

- that the land belongs to those who cultivate it; and that the right to eat includes the right of access to land, the control of its use and its production;
- that a landholding system is only fair if it guarantees food security for all;
- that food security must have priority over export requirements and debt payments.

5 - Workers' Employment

We assert

- the fundamental nature of the right to work and of all the rights of working men and women;
- that these rights include equal access to paid employment, and fair distribution of income in safe and secure working conditions;
- that these rights include all trade union rights and freedom of association;
- that migrant workers should be guaranteed equal treatment as citizens;
- that we will struggle everywhere for the adoption of a Charter of Labour Rights and the Right to Work with strong and effective monitoring and implementation mechanisms.

6 - Environmentally Sound Development for and by the People

Against imperialist plunder of the Third World and destruction of the environment.

We assert

- principles which imply responsible, equitable, and optimal use, of natural resources and protection of ecology and environment from abuse and destruction,
- and which forbids the dumping of industrial and toxic waste, and especially the imposition of technologies, modes of production and consumption unsustainable in less developed countries.

Second International Women's Conference Against APEC

The over 500 women from the Asia Pacific countries and others attending the Second International Women's Conference Against APEC Vancouver Canada, November 17 and 18, 1997 sent a clear message to the 18 heads of governments negotiating the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) free trade and investment agreement. The women unanimously reject APEC and the free market agenda of privatization, deregulation and further trade liberalization that is its driving force.

The women attending this Conference unanimously reaffirmed the Statement of the First International Women's Conference on APEC, Manila, Philippines, 15-16 November 1996. As follows:

ASIA-PACIFIC WOMEN REJECT APEC AND CALL FOR A PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE COOPERATION.

WE CALL ON ALL GOVERNMENTS, PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO UNITE IN RESISTING AND REJECTING APEC.

WE CALL UPON OUR GOVERNMENTS TO:

1. Ensure women's full participation in policy formulation and decision-making processes.
2. Regulate and control transnational corporations (TNCs) and international financial institutions (IFIs).
3. Live up to commitments made in UN conventions, including the following:
   - Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
   - Fourth World Conference on Women, Platform for Action and Beijing Declaration.
   - International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
   - International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.
   - International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions on Labour Standards.
   - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
   - Convention Against Torture, and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading treatment or Punishment
   - International Convention on All Forms of Racial Discrimination
   - Convention on the Rights of the Child
4. Allocate resources for the basic needs of people, such as, health care, education, housing and social assistance, especially for women and children and all disadvantaged persons.
5. Promote regional cooperation based on self-sufficiency and capability building through technology transfer and information flow.
6. Stop demolitions, ensure proper relocation in cases where it cannot be avoided and generate more jobs for urban poor dwellers.
7. Recognize women's role and contributions in safeguarding the environment, including the safeguarding of local plant varieties.
8. Provide adequate employment locally with decent living wages to discourage labour out migration. Government of receiving countries should provide crisis centres for migrant workers.
9. Subsidize and support efforts for sustainable agriculture, stop land conversion and enact or implement land use laws, and provide support services to small farmers, particularly women farmers. Furthermore, ensure fair prices for farmers' produce.

HENCEFORTH, WE CALL UPON NGOs AND PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS TO:

1. Develop peoples' alternative structures of fair trade
2. Undertake campaigns to raise awareness, and to mobilize and organize people's movements against APEC
3. Initiate and strengthen links between and among women, indigenous and aboriginal peoples, trade unions, and migrant workers organizations.
4. Respond to urgent alert actions for migrant women and women workers and victims of human rights violations.
5. Make the struggle for women's equality a priority agenda.
6. Call upon trade unions to include organizations of workers in the informal sector.
7. Hold the Trans-National Corporations accountable for the social and environmental impact of their operations.

We, the women of Asia and the Pacific Rim, reject APEC because the free trade policies it promotes blatantly lead to the violation of people's human rights, loss of democracy and social justice, environmental degradation and increased impoverishment of peoples.

In the name of trade liberalization, our governments have put the interests of transnational corporations (TECS) and international financial institutions at the expense of the interests of their peoples.

Economic growth has created more inequalities among and between countries, as a result of profit oriented and investment led policies. Corporations have pursued cheap labour within the region and the use of migrant labour has increased dramatically. This pattern of economic growth is unsustainable and has left environmental devastation in its wake.

APEC will only exacerbate this situation and cause the further marginalization of peoples, particularly women and children.

The indiscriminate opening up of the economy will heighten unfair competition, benefit only those who monopolize capital and technology, marginalize the poor and accelerate the depletion of natural resources.

As a result of trade liberalization, we see large-scale, capital intensive agriculture, monocropping and changing land use patterns. This has tightened monopoly control of transnational corporations and their practices of double standards which in turn have caused the people's loss of control over basic resources such as land, seed and plant varieties, and fuel.

Through these trade policies, developing countries are obligated to allow the unrestricted importation of subsidized and cheap food products that discourage domestic food production and continue to be subjected to impositions regarding tariff reduction on the small countries. This has encouraged massive and rapid conversion of agricultural lands devoted or suitable to food production to non-agricultural or non-food production uses. As a result, we are faced by food insecurity and deleterious changing patterns of food consumption among our peoples.

Contrary to the general notion that trade liberalization and competition will open more factories and create more jobs, we are now looking at massive unemployment and underemployment especially among women and the increased exploitation in the informal sector.

Massive displacements because of land conversion and development aggression continue to force our people to migrate to urban centres or to other countries. Massive homelessness and migration have destroyed communities and families, weakening the skills and knowledge base of peoples.

In every country, women are the poorest of the poor. Women carry the brunt of free trade policies which have had a devastating impact on women's rights. The loss of livelihoods and decreasing control over resources are increasing women's marginalization.

Unemployment and underemployment of women are forcing many of them into prostitution, even as the horrendous poverty of women and their families has already led to an explosion in the trafficking in and

sexual slavery of women. Migrant workers are more vulnerable to sexual harassment and increased exploitation. In the name of so-called free markets, governments have wrecked social programs which protect women.

GOVERNMENTS THAT ARE PART OF APEC HAVE NO MANDATE FROM THEIR PEOPLES TO NEGOTIATE UNRESTRICTED LIBERALIZATION OF THEIR ECONOMIES.

Free trade is bringing about an erosion of democratic rights and the destruction of democratic institutions as governments are becoming more authoritarian and dictatorial. New forms of human rights violations **AND THE WOMEN OF THIS REGION UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMNS THIS AGENDA.**

The discussions in the various work shops on the four main themes of the Second International Women's Conference: Labour, Human Rights, Environment, Economic & Social Development continued along the same lines as the statements out of the first conferences. Women explored new ways of increasing opposition to this corporate agenda.

WOMEN WILL RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES WITH RENEWED ENERGY TO WORK TO BRING TOGETHER WOMEN IN A WORLDWIDE NETWORK TO WORK FOR A PEOPLE'S AGENDA OF EQUALITY & JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PEACE.

Globalization Workshop Recommendations:

1) Social clauses are time consuming to achieve and process. They cannot change the force of agreements and are only window dressing for Northern, Western countries and should not be a part of our strategies. They are devastating for people in the South.
2) We need to build international institutions to control international capital.
3) We need to replicate redistribution of wealth strategies on an international scale.
4) We must respect economic pluralism and recognize that one economic policy doesn't fit all situations.
5) There should be compensation for victims of corporate neglect and abuse.
6) There must be a solidarity between South and North non-governmental organizations (NGOS) to act against transnational corporations and governments.
7) We must make consumers conscious about how products are produced, especially the effects of sweatshops on workers lives.
8) We must free all political prisoners.
9) Within our international campaigns, we must have a local focus and build local support.
10) We need more research to prove how few people benefit from trade liberation.
11) We need to support small business women.

Redirecting Capital: Strategies and Actions

1) Develop new anti-corporate campaigns in forestry, mining, energy, food, textiles, electronics, healthcare, education and media industries to unmask and confront the system of corporate rule.
2) Mount campaigns focused on 4 major targets that are mechanisms of corporate rule: the MAI Multilateral Agreement on Investments, the WTO (World Trade Organization), the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund).
3) Build a global network of information providers to share research findings on corporations and corporate rule in accessible ways and forms that will enable grass roots groups to develop more effective community-based campaigns for challenging corporate power and authority.
4) Launch an International Day of Resistance Against Corporate Rule each year that is aimed at targeting

and exposing the operations of specific transnational corporations at local, national and international levels, utilizing a variety of direct action tactics, including civil disobedience.

5) Develop an ongoing vehicle to help facilitate follow-up action on all these fronts and to build new solidarity networks by/with groups actively engaged in sectoral campaigns and social movements in order to advance the struggle for democratic rights against the global system of corporate rule.

Indigenous Women's Workshop Recommendations

1) Child apprehension from Indigenous women must be recognized as a form of cultural genocide.
2) Land claims/land use/corporate ownership: land claims must be settled and Aboriginal people must be involved in the implementation plan.
3) Voice and representation must be given to Aboriginal peoples living in urban areas in Canada, Bill C-31 should be respected in order to help ensure women's equality within Aboriginal communities/ portrayals/violence.
4) Media: there is a need for alternative, Indigenous media.
5) Healing and Health/AIDS: there must be training and hiring of health care workers who speak Indigenous languages and are knowledgeable about traditional healing methods.
6) Unions: while highlighting the importance of unions internationally, unions must respect the importance of volunteers in people's organizations; unions must end racist or sexist practices within their own organizations; unions should address unemployment generally because so many Aboriginal women do not have jobs; unions must be more pro-active in organizing the unorganized (i.e. there are no unions in Chiapas, Mexico where there are many indigenous women who work as domestics); there must be a cross-cultural definition of work.
7) Education: curriculum development should be based upon traditional teaching methods and values; educational institutions should be accessible to Indigenous peoples in terms of both language and region.
8) The maternal rights of Indigenous women must be respected by the law system.
9) Call for equality in laws (i.e. racism and sexism must end and there must be equal pay for equal work).
10) The basic human rights of Indigenous women must be recognized and respected.
11) There must be the protection of Indigenous cultures, beliefs and sexual orientation. Indigenous peoples need to have an arena in which to network internationally.

Migrant Workers Workshop Recommendations

1) The increased migration of women needs to be understood as occurring as a result of the following of neo-liberal policies. The women's movement around the world must fight for the right for women to stay where they are and not be displaced by corporate-driven government policies that appropriate women's land for the use of corporations and state recognized landowners or policies which promote export-trade that leaves many women unemployed in either urban or rural centres.
2) The women's movements around the world should fight for the right of people to freely cross national borders.
3) The role of patriarchy in forcing women to migrate must be exposed and opposed.
4) The women's movement should fight for the dismantling of distinctions between citizens and so-called non-citizen workers. Rights should not be based upon citizenship status.

Environments for Women Workshop Recommendations:

Women must be mobilized at the community level to make changes to their built environment (i.e. buildings, streets, parks, housing, public space, public transit, children's space, physical amenities). The natural environment must not be destroyed in the name of development.

1) Housing: women require far more housing options, especially those that are built for multiple-family living that is social and cooperative. Safety from violence must be considered when building housing.
2) Zoning: zoning bylaws must place women's and children's needs at the centre. Affordable housing, childcare and transition houses should be a high priority.
3) Public space: women need safe spaces that respect both our privacy and need for community. Women's built environment must have accessible and affordable services close by.
4) Public transit: women must have a good, reliable, affordable and accessible public transit system instead of a public transit system designed for cars and the corporations who control them. Public transit needs to accommodate women's working hours.
5) Children's space: children's spaces must be taken back from corporate developers who confiscate them; children's playgrounds must be a high priority.
6) Physical amenities: women's public housing, transition houses, rape crisis centres, battered women's
7) shelters, women's health care clinics, women's centres should be a priority.
8) There must be education about the built environment, how it is being effected by trade liberation policies and ways to mobilize against this is necessary at all levels, particularly in teacher education programs.

Child Labour Workshop Recommendations:

1) There is a great need for strong advocacy for children and the protection of their rights.
2) The right to education is a moral human right.
3) We also need strong legislation to protect children's rights.
4) We also need accurate statistics on the child labour situation globally.
5) We need a global information campaign on child labour
   a) target athletes representing companies
   b) identify products
   c) local actions
   d) encourage critical thinking and media literacy.
6) We need both economic and political strategies as well
   a) organize against APEC - no comprising with it
   b) enforce legislation against child labour
   c) develop alternative and sustainable economies so that child labour is not necessary
   d) make human and social needs a priority
7) We need informal sector organizing
   a) labour and community-based groups must work together
   b) we need a more expansive definition of who workers are
   c) international solidarity is key - solidarity with indigenous peoples and all people.

Sex Trafficking Workshop Recommendations:

1) Oppose APEC because it increases the volume of trafficking in women and globalizes the sex trafficing industry.
2) There must be the border-free mobility of people
3) Put pressure on nation-states to address the issue

4) There must be the creation of viable job alternatives for women
5) The rights of migrant workers and their families must be fully protected. Therefore, all countries should sign the UN Convention on the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families.

Poverty Workshop Recommendations:

1) We need more women's marches against poverty, including an international march (the Federation de Femme du Quebec has announced that there will be an international women's march against poverty in the year 2000).
2) Unions must become more inclusive and user-friendly by including the unemployed and the unorganized.
3) The development of the alternative media must be made a priority.
4) Language diversity must be respected and materials in these languages provided.
5) We need to consider work restructuring that includes job-sharing and early retirement. These plans need to be implemented on a global level.
6) Corporations should be taxed.
7) While free trade is currently our reality, we need to build an international alliance to create an alternative reality based upon equality. We must continue our political struggle!

Violence Against Women Workshop Recommendations:

1) APEC enforces male violence against women. It reinforces the status quo which is detrimental to women and their children. It also pushes women's gains back.
2) We must make the women's liberation movement more accessible for all women, because as men's oppression increases they look for others to oppress. We must watch out for the myth that poor men are more violent as this plays into racist and classist strategies.
3) In order to strengthen women economically and end violence against women, we must ensure:
   a) training programs for women;
   b) there must be compulsory education for women and girls about breaking the silence of violence experienced by us;
   c) enforcement of child labour laws and human rights legislation;
   d) women must organize collectively through networking;
   e) we must re-evaluate and redefine the value of women's work;

Women's Health and Reproductive Rights Workshop Recommendations:

1) Women demand a health care system that is safe, effective, holistic, affordable and women controlled. There are many systems of health care that must be recognized. We need scrutiny to be given to other systems with the hope of funding also given to them.
2) Women demand promotion of Indigenous and other holistic healing practices.
3) Women demand a decrease in military expenditures and foreign debt payments.
4) Women demand the promotion of women defined leadership within planning of the health care system.
5) Women demand the monitoring and evaluation of healthcare system.

Human Rights Workshop Recommendations:

1) Capital investment must be regulated by governments so that it is used in the interests of the people.
2) Industrialized countries of the North should commit to debt forgiveness. There needs to be reform of lending institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.
3) Foreign aid should be directed to social development that will benefit the country receiving the investment.

4) Governments should implement the United Nations sponsored agreements.
5) We must replace the way of measuring the well-being of society. We must replace the Gross National Product/Gross Domestic Product which does not measure many of the contributions made by women and are environmentally inaccurate, with an accurate measurement of women's work and the effects of certain types of development on the environment.
6) Governments should make public all of the processes being carried out in APEC and fund public debate about it.
7) Including standards for labour inside trade agreements will not work as APEC and other formal or informal trade agreements are not being negotiated for the benefit of people.
8) Governments should sponsor forums on human rights and trade for the public.
9) We need to debunk the myths that globalization is good for people and use language that is understandable when doing so.
10) Tibet should be recognized as a country.

Export Processing Zones Workshop Recommendations:

1) We should pressure companies to enforce codes of conduct and follow regulations
2) We should write letters to governments
3) We should distribute information leaflets in malls, to media.
4) We should circulate petitions to send to Parliament.
5) Instead of focusing on many different campaigns, we should build a relationship with one group and build around a common struggle, thereby creating a sense of solidarity.
6) Stop the creation of a 'free trade zone' in New Brunswick, Canada.

Environment Workshop Recommendations:

1) Resistance movements should incorporate consumer power by pursuing consumer boycotts in conjunction with workers.
2) Should be a redefinition of the GDP/GNP to a more accurate measurement of wealth creation that includes women's work and the effects upon our environment.

Heterosexism/Homophobia Workshop Recommendations:

1) Lesbianism must be recognized as a human right.
2) We demand acknowledgment of lesbian contributions and issues.
3) We demand that the effect of APEC on lesbians be included in all present and future international conferences and gatherings.

Open Markets, Open Media?

Recommendations and Policy Options

The following policy options were developed during the afternoon roundtable discussions of Open Markets, Open Media?

Concrete Actions Governments Can Take to Promote Free Media:

1. Include human rights and freedom of expression on the central agenda of trade talks and other multilateral forums. Respect for human rights should be a condition of trade deals.
2. Conduct trade negotiations in public. Northern governments should insist that press briefings and conferences around bilateral meetings be equally open to journalists from both countries.
3. Ensure broader participation in trade negotiations.
4. Support freedom to information laws.
5. Support visiting journalists through consulates and embassies.
6. Consider sanctions in situations where repression of freedom of expression is severe. Sanctions however should not apply to humanitarian aid or civil society organizations.
7. Through their overseas development aid, work to strengthen domestic civil society organizations in countries where freedom of expression is severely repressed.
8. Push within the UN system for the prosecution of government initiated violence against journalists. This should be initiated at the United Nations through legally binding policy which protects journalists (incorporate within UN charter).
9. Set up international standards to promote and protect investigative journalism. Governments should be required to report on the situation of journalists and an independent body should be tasked with monitoring free media.
10. Enact legislation that allows for freedom of association. (Many countries allow for only one state-sanctioned journalist association).
11. Be accountable and adhere to existing international agreements in all multilateral negotiations (e.g. trade negotiations cannot undermine commitments made at UN Human Rights conferences). Governments must compile and publish their infringements.
12. Consider a tax on commercial media (Media Renewal Fund) to support the development of community and alternative media.
13. Support independent and alternative media by:

- providing more licenses to developing print and broadcast media,
- providing preferential mailing rates and, by providing incentives through low taxation

Policy options and recommendations related to APEC:

1. A freer and more balanced media is essential to improved trade relations within APEC and therefore should be formally incorporated into the official APEC negotiations.
2. That APEC members report on the current condition of freedom of expression and association in their respective countries.
3. That civil society organizations (i.e. unions, religious organizations, and other citizens groups) be involved in the monitoring, reporting and evaluation of free media conditions within APEC countries.
4. That APEC become more transparent by setting up a clearing house for APEC information, declassify its documents, including negotiated texts, and make them available to the public. Canada should lead by example, sharing information about APEC deliberations before decisions are made.
5. That APEC develop a working group on freedom of information and media.

6. That APEC, as a body, commission an independent study by eminent persons on the relationship between the free flow of information and trade liberalization.
7. That the APEC Human Resources Working Group adopt a program of training journalists so as to improve professional media skills within APEC countries.
8. That APEC members formally address the issue of freedom of expression and the free flow of information over the Internet.
9. And that the APEC Telecom Working Group place internet access and restrictions on their agenda. (According to a joint letter signed by a dozen members of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange many APEC nations have censored or are attempting to restrict Internet usage and contents).
10. That APEC lobby against restrictive laws or practices i.e. intellectual property rights that allow corporations to control ideas, access to information, culture and technology.
11. That journalists report freely on APEC without fear of reprimand, including full investigative reporting on the impact of APEC policies.
12. That the Canadian government bring Canada's individual action plan before Parliament for review.

NOTE: One roundtable recommended that Canada remove itself from APEC because the goals of the organization undermine basic Canadian values and the model of trade liberalization advanced by APEC undermines Canadian economic, social and environmental policy. The role of journalists in relation to APEC is to expose the ways in which APEC inhibits open and independent media and is devoid of a social justice agenda.

How Can Businesses Take Action to Promote Open Media?

1. Businesses formally recognize the importance of open media to healthy trade and commercial decision-making.
2. Adopt meaningful codes of conduct and ethics and apply them to all of their global operations. Ensure that code recognizes the right and protection of freedom of expression.
3. Refuse to conduct business with countries that suppress the media.
4. That the APEC Business Advisory Council issue a paper on the importance of free media in addressing corruption. ABAC and PBEC should use their influence to raise the need for transparency of information and open media for sound trade and investment.
5. That businesses do not engage in bribery or buying of journalists. Media businesses should adopt an "anti-envelope" or anti-bribery policy to apply to all journalists in their employment.
6. Donate out-of-date equipment to independent and community media organizations or journalist schools.
7. Media owners should promote better international understanding of issues by featuring articles and reports by foreign journalists in their papers and television broadcasts.

What actions can journalists take to promote more open and independent media?

1. Develop socially conscious unions that educate membership to the issues, including decent wages and working conditions.
2. Strive to find more diverse sources for news reporting (not just business sources).
3. Support freedom of expression organizations that protect journalists who speak out.
4. Modify media institutions to make them less hierarchical and more democratic.
5. Advocate for freedom of information laws, whistle blower legislation etc.
6. Ensure that freedom of expression issues are part of the curriculum of journalists schools.
7. Assist dissemination of news from developing countries to other parts of the world.
8. Encourage freedom of thought and critical thinking.
9. Discourage the acceptance of bribes, transportation money, or envelopes by all journalists.

10. Strengthen regional groupings of journalists (South-to-South) where the situations facing journalists is more comparable (as compared to North-to-South).
11. Report on government breaches of freedom of expression laws.
12. Develop an internationally recognized professional standards and codes of conduct for journalists. Breaches of these standards should be reviewed by peers and community members.
13. Create and/or support existing awards programmes for journalists' best practices.
14. Journalists organizations with significant pension funds should use these funds to lever changes, through investment, in the commercial press. Alternatively, pension funds can be used to set up foundations to support more independent media.
15. Encourage orientations for foreign correspondents to culture, language and political history of the regions they cover. Include gender training (e.g. foreign correspondents rarely cover the impacts of war on women).
16. Provide opportunities for exchanges, mentorship and training of journalists (North and South).
17. Journalists and media organizations should work with governments to set up a freedom of expression caucus for the United Nations Human Rights review (model: women's caucus in Vienna). Journalists and organizations involved in this caucus should meet as part of the International NGO Meeting 2000.
18. Journalists and media organizations should develop a platform for lobbying on trade and freedom of expression to apply to other trade and multi-lateral foras. An international monitoring group should be established to report on the state of free media by countries.
19. A media organization should conduct research into the importance of free media to the advancement of environmental and workers issues.
20. Develop working journalists' websites.

General recommendations

We would like to request of the Canadian Foreign Affairs minister that:

1. He raise concerns about violations of freedom of expression in bilateral meetings.
2. Press Malaysia to permit a People's Summit on APEC in 1998.
3. Press Multilateral Development Banks to promote access to information and freedom of expression as part of good governance programming and that media organizations and unions be consulted in the development of such programming.
4. Ensure that Canadian bi-lateral negotiations (particularly trade negotiations) be transparent, accountable and accessible.
5. Raise the recommendation to the Canadian government that its Team Canada missions include and benefit only those companies and corporate entities which have made a commitment to adhere to an international code of conduct in their international business operations.
6. Work to ensure that the Canadian government restore and strengthen funding to the Radio International. (Promote western values abroad. Promote Asian values in Canada)

A Policy Framework for the Canadian Government Canada can play a role in three distinct areas:

(i) partnership

- training, particularly journalists training for election coverage; investigative reporting, training of young journalists.
- exchanges - South-to-South (regional meetings) and continued support to North-South collaborative work (e.g. media unions, journalist organizations)
- increased access and capacity building in new technologies i.e. internet (resist regulatory controls)
- support media organizations efforts to create independent unions and institutes that fund investigative

journalism (to alleviate the problems of "envelope" journalism)

- support traditional media (puppet theatres, story tellers, community-based media which utilizes appropriate technology)
- embassies should sponsor conferences on social issues (non-confrontational) and work to support journalists in crisis situations

(ii) standards setting

- support research: e.g. the role of the media in revealing corruption issues; legislative frameworks to support free media;
- codes of conduct for media; guidelines for media access to trade negotiations; regulatory frameworks for reducing corporate concentration of media ownership; role of the media in good governance; relationship between open media and economic growth.
- support model project on training of journalists for election coverage (e.g. Cambodia)

(iii) lobby/actions

- support the freedom for the media to organize
- support international freedom of expression organizations and journalist protection organizations
- promote freedom of expression actions in diplomatic relations
- help build a caucus within the UN for freedom of expression with membership of civil society organizations

Public Education and Research Forum

Over two days, students, educators and researchers met to discuss the impact of APEC and the neo-liberal agenda on public education and research. Participants identified issues and objectives and developed strategies for challenging this agenda. This was the first meeting of representatives from the Asia Pacific to focus specifically on education and research.

Throughout the plenary, panel and workshop sessions common concerns were raised about the threats to public education and independent research.

The following common issues were identified:

- privatization and the commodification of education
- education being restructured to meet the needs of business; education as preparation of workers rather than education including economic, social and cultural benefits
- the belief that training will eliminate unemployment places the blame on the unemployed rather than on an economy that does not produce enough jobs
- government funding cutbacks are creating a vacuum that is being filled by private interests which have no stake in promoting accessibility
- increasing trend towards curriculum based on business and economic interests and the narrowing of curriculum and the removal of activities which promote critical thinking and active citizenship
- history of colonization is embedded in the education system and its philosophy
- loss of public input and control
- cultural imperialism and the homogenisation of culture

For teachers:

- exclusion from the development of education policy and curriculum while teachers are being blamed for the failing of the education system
- decreasing status of the teaching profession
- threats to collective bargaining and freedom of association

For students:

- decreased accessibility to all forms of education
- no rights to organise

A number of common objectives were identified, including:

- human rights
- defense of public education
- raising the level of education available to all
- raising the quality of working conditions
- teachers, students, parents and civil society should reclaim the right to be part of the decision making process
- increasing the level of awareness about APEC and other neo-liberal structures
- ensure that there is meaningful participation from women and youth
  ensure that children learn about their own culture and democratic and human rights

A number of common strategies were identified, including:

- building and strengthening alliances; local, national, regional and international level and supporting each others struggles
- liaising and networking within the education sector (teachers, students, parents), the broader labour movement and other non-governmental organisations
- promoting parallel activities, including: research, discussion, information exchange, development of action plans (group and personal) curriculum development, electronic communications etc., future public education and research forums at parallel summits (planning for Malaysia)
- target appropriate government agencies/groups and international education organisations (i.e. Education International, International Union of Students, UNESCO, International Council of Free Trade Unions, Asia Pacific Labour Network) that deal with education and research

Researchers' Discussions

Forty-five researchers from 12 countries gathered in two workshops during the Public Education and Research Forum. Those present included students, researchers from popular research institutes, from trade union organizations and from academic institutions. This may have been the first time such sessions were held as part of the parallel movement and although most felt some ambivalence about having separate workshop sessions because of the danger of being cut off from activists, it was nevertheless felt to be constructive because of the urgency of building international research networks.

The discussion in the workshops focused on networking and capacity building. It was suggested that two key aspects of research included long-term substantive projects and the other was making research accessible for non-governmental and people's organizations. The above requires close links between researchers and non-governmental organizations or people's organizations. Developing or maintaining such links may require retooling of research organizations.

The issue of a commitment to networking was raised. It was pointed out that often when someone e-mails a person or organization to request information there is no reply. Many organizations or activists are already overworked and have difficulty responding to requests. There is currently an international initiative to poll organizations and to compile a list of organizations that will commit to providing information and research services.

An email list of researchers present was compiled and will be made available to all participants in the workshops.

The discussion on networking continued the next morning. The discussion focused initially on how to situate research related to the Asia-Pacific and APEC in the context of the global situation. A roundtable attempted to provide information related to international networks that already existed.

It became apparent that substantial networks are developing (including the International Forum on Globalization, the World Forum on Alternatives and others related to the M.A.I., the W.T.O., U.N.C.T.A.D. etc.). We need to know what is going on in order to do popular education, to assure access to information and in order to avoid trying to reinvent the wheel. There was a consensus that participants did not object to using the new electronic media to access and disseminate information.

Small meetings followed on specific topics for which reports are not available.

There was a recognition that researchers in the north needed to provide support for research in the southern countries. It was suggested that it might be difficult to convene a meeting of researchers in Malaysia at the next APEC parallel activity without support from existing networks.

Sustainability Issues Forum

Summary of the Sustainability Issues Forum presented by co-chair, Lopeti Senituli, Executive Director, Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Fiji

Overview:

- Sustainability Issues Forum was held November 20, 1997.
- Approximately 300 people attended 5 issue workshops on agriculture, aquaculture/fisheries, cities, forests and mining.
- Participants came from communities around the world - Asia, the Pacific, Latin America and North America including local activists, fishers, farmers, academics, labour groups, environmental and development NGOs and the community of Vancouver.

Several themes emerged from the 5 workshops that indicate there are profound similarities of the impact of APEC on communities in the South and the North.

Some examples of these common threads are:

- The loss of sovereignty by local communities and peoples over resources, the environment and the threats to livelihoods of millions of people, especially small scale producers.
- Globalization threatens local governments and democracies and therefore we need to build local economies and democracies.

Several general ideas emerged in these overview themes which included:

- Assert local culture and knowledge to fight globalization.
- Create links internationally to work together to promote a sustainable future.
- Increase our knowledge and understanding of the impacts of globalization and our knowledge of the current changing global framework of which APEC is one mechanism.
- Pursue the overarching value of justice which puts people first in a people-oriented development process which meets the basic needs of water, education, clean air, security, etc.

Common actions which emerged from the 5 workshops included:

- Organize to re-gain community control of resources and livelihoods to meet the need for re-democratization.
- Build the capacity to increase our knowledge to confront globalization processes.
- Increase our capacity for policy development to challenge macro-economic policies.
- Work on concrete alternatives in our home countries to support policy advocacy.
- Increase the sharing of information and build our international communications networks by using technology such as email and the Internet. Examples are the development of a rapid response capacity on mining and an international agrarian reform campaign.
- Increase coalition-building and networking multi-sectorally, both North/South and South/South, to broaden the debates and campaigns. We need to build strategic alliances and common strategies on actions such as food security and convention.
- Push for alternative marketing systems to globalization and liberalization.

In conclusion, we need to begin now working together towards the next People's Summit on APEC in Malaysia in 1998.

Canadian Arms Trade to the Asia Pacific

We live in the age of militarism. More people have died in wars in the twentieth century than throughout the whole history of civilization. We have the dishonour of having built the largest military industrial societies ever known. We have the shame of building bombs that can obliterate whole cities, and a global military system that can destroy our planet. We have used up so much time, resources, money and people on militarism that whole economies and societies are now devastated by poverty, oppression and inequality.

As the century draws to a close, more than 110 million people — the majority of them civilians — have died in wars.

It is estimated that $8 trillion dollars ($8,000,000,000,000) has been squandered on nuclear weapons alone. At the same time, much of our planet continues to be impoverished, lacking basic human needs such as food, shelter, clothing, education and health care.

The production, manufacturing, and export of weapons has become a major global industry and, as economies change and alliances shift, so too does the weapons industry. With a decline in arms sales, following the end of the Cold War, arms manufacturers have aggressively sought new markets for their weapons.

Since the end of the Cold War, only one region of the world — East Asia — has experienced a significant rise in military spending. As a consequence, the Asia-Pacific has become the focus of arms manufacturers. For them, APEC represents an opportunity for an unrestrained weapons trade in the Asia-Pacific. And, in their pursuit of profits, they ignore conflicts, human rights abuses and poverty.

What must be done

1. First and foremost we must develop national, regional and global economies that provide for the needs of people. Economies that benefit only a minority breed despair and conflict. To achieve this goal, we must find means to democratically control the global economy and rein in the global conglomerates. Controls placed on corporations must limit the types of commodities they sell — including armaments.
2. There is no place for the free trade of armaments. Governments at all levels must implement means to discourage the trade in arms with the goal of eventually eliminating the arms trade.
3. We must build economies that help eliminate the need for armaments by focusing on the needs of people and building trade relations that are fair, balanced and equitable — as opposed to building an economy that benefits corporations and their shareholders.
4. The world has already agreed that certain types of weapons must be controlled, even abolished, including nuclear weapons, chemical weapons and biological weapons which are all weapons of mass destruction. Even landmines have been added to the list of weapons to be banned because they indiscriminately kill.
5. The world is ready to comprehensively extend the principle of abolition and control on all weapons. In this century of militarism it is apparent that all war and conflict indiscriminately kill and maim. We must continue by phasing in the elimination of whole classes of weapons until all are abolished.
6. To do this will require transparency in the arms trade and arms production. A global body must develop a list of all armaments and impose strict regulations regarding the sale, purchase or transfer of armaments. All countries and corporations must be obliged to register arms transfers and, eventually, arms production.
7. Initiatives must be taken to implement peacebuilding measures and alternative security arrangements. At the global level this must be facilitated by a democratized United Nations. The UN must begin to reflect the needs and the will of most people. It is only a democratic UN, with power to enforce controls on corporations and trade, that can help curtail and eliminate the destabilizing arms trade.

What we can do

Throughout history progress has only occurred when large numbers of people have demanded change and found means to implement their will.

It is up to us, the citizens and citizen's groups of the world, to lead the way toward peace, disarmament and global democratization.

We call on the groups represented at the People's APEC Summit to support two major peace initiatives:

1. **Hague Appeal for Peace 1999** – an international conference with three main goals 1) Disarmament, 2) International humanitarian law, and 3) Conflict prevention.

2. the End the Arms Race initiative to host an international conference entitled "**Global Militarism: NATO, Arms Trade and Military Spending**."

Human Rights Issue Forum Recommendations

- Noting that APEC is one of the only regional decision-making bodies that has no human rights policies, and
- Recognizing that the success of economic development must be judged by its improvement of the human condition for minority groups, for workers, for women, for children, and for any marginalized groups, and
- Considering that insufficient attention is being paid to protections for the above groups, and to labour conditions and worker rights within many APEC countries, and
- Having heard the serious human rights abuses in APEC countries as reported by people on the panels and in the forum audience,
- And finally, acknowledging the documented evidence of individual and systemic human rights abuses by government and businesses within APEC countries,

Therefore, be it resolved:

1. That all ILO Conventions (especially 87 and 98) be ratified and implemented by APEC countries as a means to assure freedom of assembly and the associated labour rights,
2. That businesses within APEC countries should recognize their significant political and cultural influence, and take a leadership role in encouraging socially responsible policies and practices within APEC,
3. That the APEC countries and the businesses within them should adopt an ethical set of business principles that incorporate international human rights standards, and
4. That a human rights monitoring body should be formed within APEC that is inclusive, transparent, and empowered to present an annual report for public review.

Youth and Human Rights Issue Forum - Common Threads

The Youth and Human Rights Forum which brought together 500 participants at the People's Summit, on November 20, 1997, anticipating the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms:

- The Universality of Human Rights.
- And calls on all governments to sign the 50th Anniversary Pledge of the UDHR to reaffirm their commitment to the declaration and its implementation.
- Accountability of the APEC governments in terms of the effects of their policies on human rights, labour and the environment and calls on the participating governments to place human rights on the Agenda of this and every succeeding APEC. Observance and defence of Human Rights must not be postponed but be integral to development for all.
- Recognition of the right to self-determination: Tibetan People, East Timor, First Nations North America, other traditional peoples, and opposition to cultural genocide and asks that governments engage in peace dialogue with indigenous peoples. Struggling for self-determination (for example in East Timor and Tibet)
- Opposition to the Arms Trade and calls on all governments particularly the primary arms exporters to cease sales of arms to repressive governments and to states and groups involved in civil conflict.
- Treaties on human rights, child labour, should be enforced and call upon governments to implement their commitments as embodied in international human rights treaties, treaties with indigenous people, etc.

We all have to take responsibility as citizens including youth for our choices as citizens and as consumers, investors, etc., and we support and encourage participation in boycotts and other forms of consumer action provided that these are developed with the support of the workers and activists in the communities involved.

The role and responsibility of youth to learn now/act now and we call on them to join us in actions in defence of human rights around the world such as: letter writing, bringing human rights issues into our schools and colleges, public protest advocacy with our elected representatives, solidarity visits and exchanges, support for refugees.

The need to defend rights advocates and to oppose threats and actions against them by governments and corporations and action should be taken to bar officials involved in such actions from Canada

Youth Forum Participants are keenly aware of the negative effect which the current economic crisis in a number of APEC countries is having on human rights, including mass unemployment, labour rights, and loss of security.

Case Histories: Human rights violations in APEC countries

A 65 year-old Tibetan who survived 33 years imprisonment was tortured by Chinese authorities for exercising his right to freedom of speech and religion. Methods of torture included electric shocks to his genitals, and to his mouth causing him to lose his teeth. Tibetans accused of calling for Tibet's independence are imprisoned.

Born and raised in Burma, this woman graduated from the Institute of Medicine. As a member of the Medical School Strike Committee, she was involved in the 1988 uprising when thousands were killed following the military take-over. Recent human rights violations against ethnic minorities in Burma by the military have resulted in the destruction of their villages and they have been forced to work on road and railway construction under harsh conditions amounting to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

A human rights activist & constitutional expert described the loss of civil rights following the take-over by the Government of China. The Hong Kong Bill of Rights was repealed and publications critical of the Government have been prohibited. There are new regulations limiting the size of public gatherings.

A Japanese member of Amnesty international reviewed human rights violations in some APEC countries, indigenous people in the Philippines living in development project zones were shot dead while protesting the destruction of their homes by security police acting for landowners. Teachers in South Korea were arrested following strike action after denial of the right to form a trade union.

A graduate of Shanghai Medical University School of Public Health was working on AIDS education issues and organized an AIDS Helpline and gay support group was stopped and he was fired from his position with the National Health Institute. Discrimination against gays and lesbians exists, and there is no protection against harassment.

A South Korean human rights activist described working conditions in a Korean factory. Workers were forced to work overtime without extra pay. Collective bargaining and membership of unrecognized trade unions have been prohibited. The Government has reduced the working age from 18 to fourteen years. Pregnant women are fired.

A Canadian Amnesty international member described ethical investment charters that business and the APEC countries should adopt to promote and protect human rights together with mechanisms necessary to adequately ensure implementation and monitoring.

Recommendations of the Youth Forum on Human Rights

WHEREAS panels at the Youth and Human Rights forum discussed the universality of human rights along with the question of whether trade and human rights should be linked.
The participants' conclusion of the discussion was that not only should there be a link between human rights & trade but that the correlation is essential to the universality of human rights and the development thereof.

AND WHEREAS all justice systems must follow the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Examples being the right to free speech, assembly, religion, etc.

AND WHEREAS issues concerning human rights and democratic freedom must be brought up by the Canadian government at the meeting of the leaders during the APEC conference. APEC is a morally neutral organization when it comes to such issues as human rights and the environment. If these issues are not introduced at the conference, countries like China and Indonesia stand to gain enormous benefits while continuing the brutal repression of their own citizens.

AND WHEREAS the government of Indonesia has made threats against Indonesian citizens outside of Indonesia who criticize their country's president.

AND WHEREAS manufacturing companies have violated human rights during the production of goods throughout the world.

AND WHEREAS certain countries have been unlawfully occupying foreign nations
Examples being Indonesia invading East Timor and China invading Tibet.

THEREFORE, the youth delegates to the human rights forum at the People's Summit on APEC do hereby resolve to recommend that:

1. All countries should collectively establish a set of codes concerning basic conditions in the working environment that guarantee the protection of human rights.
2. All countries should follow the rule of law in which due process is guaranteed to all persons. The United Nations shall have the power to enforce this resolution.
3. The Canadian government raise the issue of human rights during their negotiation with other APEC countries.
4. The Indonesian government unconditionally withdraw all threats made against citizens for speaking out against their government at the APEC conference and subsequently apologize for such actions.
5. The international organizations such as the United Nations unequivocally state that occupation of nations by foreign powers is unacceptable. Therefore, it should be requested that such nations involved in occupation immediately withdraw from those foreign nations.

Ratified - Friday November 21st 1997 (Louise Du, Lauren Graham, and Naveen Verma - Point Grey Secondary, Paul Browning, Jennifer Chu - Churchill Secondary)

Judges' statement: The International Tribunal on Workers' Human Rights

Workers caged in factories which burn, children and home workers replacing unionized women, workers with neither enough water nor food to sustain them during inhumane working hours, women sex-trafficked to Canada were among the stories we heard at the International Tribunal on Workers' Human Rights at the People's Summit on APEC. We heard dramatic and moving testimonies of workers from Burma, Canada, China, Indonesia,

Mexico, Thailand, and the United States of America. Demonstrating extraordinary courage, eight individuals told stories of violence and dehumanization — stories that are silenced and ignored in the official APEC process.

The witnesses to the Tribunal told the panel of judges and an audience of hundreds about their deplorable and unacceptable working conditions. Repeatedly, examples were given of how governments and corporations violate the fundamental human rights of workers with impunity. This has resulted in death, in imprisonment, in harassment and intimidation of workers who attempt to defend their rights.

The model of liberalization of trade and investment being promoted by APEC is undermining national and international safeguards that protect workers' rights and employment conditions. Deregulation is used to dismantle the accountability of governments and corporations. Freedom of association and the right to form independent trade unions are violated in a myriad of different ways.

APEC's vision has no place for the people who make the products that APEC is so eager to trade. Their rights are nowhere on APEC's agenda. The priority accorded to economic growth and rapid trade and investment liberalization run counter to any notion of people-centered sustainable development.

A common thread running through the testimonies was accountability. With lax or no enforcement of national and international labour standards, workers do not have the necessary remedies to address the violation of their rights and achieve justice. Several of the testimonies focused on the egregious violations of the rights of women workers.

In Canada, 23 women of Thai and Malaysian origin, were arrested in September 1997 for violating Canada's immigration and prostitution laws. Five of these women, under court order not to leave Ontario, testified to the Tribunal in a special video-taped testimony. They had been trafficked to Canada to be used as prostitutes only to face police brutality, criminal charges and the seizure of their money and passports when their places of work were raided. They were not told they were entitled to defence counsel and did not receive the protection that is called for under international and Canadian law.

In China, 87 young women workers lost their lives in a toy factory four years ago when they were trapped behind locked doors and barred windows. The survivors, still suffering physically and psychologically from their injuries, have been denied the compensation they require, for medical treatment and for long-term survival needs. Dangerous working conditions are endemic in many joint ventures in China.

In 1996, four women workers at a Mattel toy factory in Mexico (producer of Barbie dolls) were illegally detained by management personnel, interrogated for ten hours and forced to resign. In March 1997, Mexican courts ruled that because the managers had not demanded ransom for their release, illegal confinement had not taken place. To date, Mattel has done nothing to discipline those responsible and the judiciary has told the Mattel workers that it has more pressing matters to deal with.

In Thailand, workers were left with unpaid wages and compensation when the owner of a garment manufacturing company closed down operations and fled the country, after telling the workers that they were like old and useless buffalo.

In California, USA, workers employed at a garment factory were grossly underpaid and forced to work under harsh conditions with the owner threatening to close down the shop and move to Mexico if the

workers formed a union. Migrant workers from China work and live in appalling conditions in Saipan, in the US Commonwealth, and are punished and sent back to China if they protest.

Seafarers from Burma, who work on the ships transporting the goods being manufactured in the region are forced to work, particularly on ships flying flags of convenience, for very low wages, long hours and under shocking conditions. Burmese seafarers are repeatedly harassed and punished upon return to their country for seeking unpaid wages through seafarers' unions.

Members of the independent but unrecognized Indonesian Prosperity Trade Union (SBSI) have been harassed, dismissed from their jobs and some are serving prison terms. Its General Secretary, Muchtar Pakpahan, is seriously ill under military guard in hospital. Charged under the draconian Anti-subversion Law which is often used to prosecute those who peacefully express views critical of the government, Pakpahan potentially faces the death penalty and is being denied the treatment he requires.

The workers' experiences detailed in the testimonies presented to the Tribunal violate the vast majority of articles set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and elaborated in other UN and ILO standards. The rights include :

- freedom of association and the right to organize, the right to form independent trade unions and the right to collective bargaining;
- the rights to work, social security and unemployment benefits;
- the right to free speech and assembly;
- the equality of rights, regardless of sex or other personal attributes;
- the right to rest and leisure;
- the right to an adequate standard of living;
- the right to health and physical integrity;
- the right to life;
- the right to freedom of movement and to leave and return to any country;
- the right to effective remedy;
- the right to dignity, and to privacy; and
- the right not to be subjected to forced labour or slavery.

In particular, the Tribunal notes the need for APEC to give careful and urgent attention to Article 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which says: "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized."

APEC's present economic framework strengthens investors and corporations to ruthlessly accumulate wealth through repression and violation of the fundamental rights of workers. APEC's process establishes a privileged relationship between business and government to the exclusion of other social groups. The accountability of governments to their populations is further diminished by APEC's characterization of states as economies and of heads of state as economic leaders. It is imperative therefore that the governments of APEC fundamentally redesign their economic strategies and policies in order to promote "the social progress and better standard of life in larger freedom" as foreseen by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We call upon the heads of governments from the 18 APEC countries to consider the following:

1. Governments have a responsibility to develop their economic policies in an open, transparent and participatory process.
2. Governments must respect the right to form independent trade unions and therefore ensure that trade unionists and organizers are not subjected to intimidation, harassment, detention and prosecution.
3. Governments must respect the rights of documented and undocumented migrant workers.
4. Governments are responsible for ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights. Thus, governments must be held accountable for the continued violation of those rights.

5. Corporations, national and transnational, are fully accountable for human rights violations of their workers and the communities in which they operate.
6. Governments should ratify all UN and ILO human rights treaties without reservation and incorporate them into national legislation and policies. Effective mechanisms must be created at the national levels to strengthen existing international mechanisms for the protection and promotion of workers' human rights.
7. Governments should take effective measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women including violation of women's reproductive rights occurring all to frequently in the workplace.
8. Governments should take urgent action to end the abuse and exploitation of children as workers.
9. Governments should move promptly to eradicate domestic and international trafficking of women and children and especially stop the criminalization and abuse by police and immigration authorities.

Workers' Rights and Democratic Development

Summary of Workshop Reports

Over 300 delegates attended the Labour Forum. They represented trade unions and labour support groups from throughout the APEC region, as well as from South Asian and Latin American countries that are not members of APEC.

Each workshop reported on its discussions to the forum's final plenary session. Together with the judges' statement from the Tribunal on Workers' Human Rights (November 20, 1997), these recommendations comprise the findings of the 1997 International Forum on Workers' Rights and Democratic Development. The re-occurring theme within the recommendations is the need for increased collaboration between trade unions and labour support groups, north and south.

A Making Transnational Corporations Accountable

Chair: Hassan Yussuff (Canadian Auto Workers)
Resource People: Apo Leong (Asia Monitor Resource Centre), Charles Kernaghan (National Labour Committee)
Rapporteur: Linda Yantz, (Maquila Solidarity Network)

Discussions focused on consumer campaigns and codes of conduct with independent monitoring.

Recommendations:

1. Campaign emphasis should be placed on improving conditions for production workers themselves rather than on media exposure or consumer guilt. It is also important not to lose sight of lower profile battles such as those which do not involve well-known brand labels or consumer merchandise. Therefore a need exists for operational support for active coordination between northern and southern advocacy organizations in order to design and implement focused campaigns.
2. Those who are able should provide financial resources to build links between workers and support groups in the south and/or between south and north. Such initiatives should not be limited to existing trade unions but should also reach out to workers in the informal sector, women and other marginalized workers.
3. Groups which are involved in providing services, workplace organizing and developing education programs, must be supported with financial resources where possible. The union movement should not limit such support to unions, but should also include youth, church groups and other organizations which are committed to organizing around these issues.

B Trade Unions and Democratic Development

Chair: Micheline Levesque (ICHRDD), Dick Martin (Canadian Labour Congress)
Resource People: Ko Bala, (Federation of Trade Unions-Burma), Tohap Simanungkalit (SBSI)
Rapporteur: Cecilia Tuico (Workers' Assistance Centre Inc.)

Group discussion emphasized the strong link between trade union rights and democratic development. There cannot be democracy without strong trade unions and there cannot be strong trade unions without democracy.

Recommendations:

1. Trade unions should form alliances with other sectors of civil society in the struggle for formal democracy.
2. There is a need for more research and education on methods to fight for formal democracy. Trade unions should take the lead in developing materials for this campaign. Trade unions such as the Canadian Labour Congress and international organizations such as the ICHRDD should provide financial resources for this work.

C Organizing Experiences in the Informal Economy or the Challenge of Subcontracting

Chair: Winnie Ng (Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees / Canada)
Resource People: Ratzwin Leechanavanichpan (Justice and Peace Commission of Thailand), Remy Bourlongan (Asian Domestic Workers' Union)
Rapporteurs: Mike Desautels (Canadian Labour Congress), Ratzwin Leechanavanichpan (Justice and Peace Commission of Thailand)

There was agreement that men and women, trade unions and NGOs, northern and southern organizations must work together on this issue. Generally speaking, informal sector workers have been ignored by trade unions. There is a need to broaden the traditional definition of "worker". There is also a need to raise the visibility of the informal sector workers and move towards regulation of subcontracting. Organizing is difficult in the informal sector and must usually be done on a one-to-one basis. There is a need to find unifying points that people can rally around.

Recommendations:

1. Unions should make a place for informal sector workers in their structures, including international structures. The international Confederation of Free Trade Unions and NGOs should increase the number of joint projects aimed at assistance for informal sector workers.
2. There is a need for research and documentation of the treatment of workers by locally-based companies and their subcontractors, not only by transnational corporations.
3. The labour migrant workers statement from Manila should be amended to delete references to informal sector workers as "docile and unorganized" and should include reference to the globalization of the informal sector.
4. Delegates at the Forum should create a mechanism to support the rights of victims of subcontracting.

D International Trade Union Movement and Human Rights Groups Working Together

Chair: Betty Plewes (Canadian Council for International Cooperation)
Resource People: Pierre Sané (Amnesty International), Luis Anderson (Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers)
Rapporteur: June Lewis (Telecommunication Workers Union)

This workshop reported excellent and fruitful discussions, which addressed both international and grassroots action, with potential for joint action on child labour and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI).

Recommendations:

1. There must be a recognition of the uniqueness of each group and differences between groups should be respected. Alliances are built by people working together. They should each work in a transparent fashion.

2. Trade unions and NGOs should collaborate to address specific issues such as upcoming changes to Japanese laws on migrant workers and also on behalf of jailed Indonesian trade unionist Dita Siri (24 years old, sentenced to six years in prison for her efforts to organize workers).

E International Trade Agreements and Labour Rights

Chair: Pharis Harvey (International Labor Rights Fund)
Resource People: Tony Salvador (Alternative Legal Assistance Centre, Saligan), Nancy Riche (Canadian Labour Congress), Alejandro Villamar (Red Mexican de Accion Frente Al Libre Comercio)
Rapporteur: Pharis Harvey (International Labor Rights Fund)

There was, as expected, a vigorous discussion and debate about the social clause and related issues. No one in the workshop supported the idea of APEC actually becoming a trade agreement, but there was a consensus on the need to improve the rule of law in the region. There was general agreement that the purpose of attempts to include labour rights in trade agreements is to increase popular sovereignty in the world of trade and therefore that discussions about the social clause need to address the socio-political context in which they take place. Social clauses must include provisions to ensure living wages, which will vary from country to country. Workshop participants also felt that attempts to increase social conditionality must include the cancelling third world debt. Moreover, if the World Trade Organization is not itself reformed, a social clause within it will not in fact increase popular sovereignty.

Social clauses need to have provisions which will encourage states to improve labour conditions before there is an international move towards sanctions. In this regard, delegates reiterated the need to strengthen the ILO and to regulate speculative capital.

Recommendations:

1 should be declared the International Year of Workers' Rights, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
2 We should enable workers at the grassroots level to be involved in debates related to this issue.

F Migrant Workers

Chair: Mike Jendrzejczyk (Human Rights Watch)
Resource People: Rex Varona (Asia Migrant Centre), Cathi Tacaquin (International Migrant Watch Committee), Tanis Ybarra (United Farm Workers of USA)
Rapporteur: Sister Mary Soledad Perpiplan (Third World Movement against the Exploitation of Women)

Discussion in the workshop was supplemented by videos, personal testimony and country reports all of which described the condition of migrant workers. The workshop was designed based on the findings of the Manila Migrant Workers Forum.

The Lead Shepherd (chairperson) of APEC's Human Resources Development (HRD) Working Group, Stewart Goodings, participated in the morning session and participated in discussion about the different positions on APEC and its HRD working group. There was no consensus as to whether or not migrant workers' rights advocates should invest in this process.

Workshop participants noted that December 18 would be an international day of solidarity for migrant workers and that several activities were planned. IMWC agreed to send action kits to delegates.

Recommendations:

1. We should lobby APEC governments to ratify the UN Convention of the Protection of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

2. Unions are urged to become involved with migrant workers' rights, and to assist to organize speaking tours to educate the public about migrant workers' rights linking them to broader issues and consumer actions.
3. A defence fund for migrant workers in trouble should be established.

APEC'S Corporate Agenda:

Unmasking the transnational corporations that are behind a free trade regime in the Asia Pacific region

Introduction – COC – Polaris – Asia Partners

Approximately 125 delegates participated in our day long issue forum on APEC's Corporate agenda. The prime purpose of our forum was to unmask the transnational corporate powers that are the driving forces behind APEC and the free trade agenda in the Asia-Pacific. In other words, the political leaders from the 18 member economies meeting at the APEC Summit are primarily here to represent the strategic interests of transnational corporations. Our governments have become the client states of transnational corporations period.

Plenary Sessions

During the morning session of our forum, we had two panel presentations. The first panel featured Antonio Tujan of the IBON Institute in the Philippines and Jane Kelsey from the University of Auckland in New Zealand. Antonio outlined the geo-economics and politics of the region — how the 2 imperial states (Japan and the U.S.) are competing for control of markets in the region; how TCN's have integrated the region and gained dominance in production and trade; how U.S. transnationals are trying to gain control; how national policies (e.g. mining legislation) in the Philippines was being re-written to advance base strategic interested TNC's. Jane portrayed how New Zealand was structurally transformed from a regulated to a deregulated economy; the strategic objectives of corporations in demanding privatization and deregulation, the stranglehold of financial institutions in promoting speculative rather than productive investment. The second panel featured Steve Shrybman of West Coast Environmental Law Association and Mike Dolan of Public Citizen in the U.S. Steve outlined some aspects of the corporate agenda behind the WTO and how the investor state mechanism of the MAI would be used to ratchet down government policies and environmental regulations. Mike focused his presentation on the MAI as an instance of corporate power and rule, emphasizing what needs to be done to use fast track as a means to stop the MAI.

Sectoral Workshops

In the afternoon, we divided into 8 workshops focused on different sectors of the Asia-Pacific economy. The sectors included: finance, agriculture, fisheries, mining, forestry, health care, education, media and communications. Each workshop was facilitated and resourced by leading activists in this area. The common tasks for the 2 hour workshops were as follows: (1) map out the main corporate players and their strategic interests in the Asia Pacific region; (2) identify the APEC mechanisms used by these corporate players to promote and advance these strategic interests; (3) name two actions that could be taken to build resistance to these corporate strategies in the coming year. In varying ways, the sectoral workshops addressed these three tasks and other priority concerns.

Common Themes

There were several common themes that emerged from both the panel presentations and sectoral workshops.

- that priority needs to be put on the task of unmasking the corporate agenda and players behind free trade regimes like APEC rather than focusing so much attention on the nuts and bolts of trade.
- that the mechanisms of APEC –deregulation, privatization, investment measures— be clearly defined

as instruments designed to facilitate the strategic interests of transnational corporations to secure control over markets in the Asia Pacific.

- that this corporate agenda is largely fuelled by financial speculation on global money markets, which distorts and destroys the productive capacity of our economies, while the IMF and World Bank continue to impose structural adjustment medicine that benefit the strategic interests of TNC's.
- that we must learn to track the investment strategies of TNC's in key sectors of the Asia-Pacific region (i.e. follow the money or the capital flows) as well as the vertical and horizontal integration of the major corporate players in each sector.
- that we must not be overwhelmed or paralysed by this corporate power structure or trapped by the TINA syndrome i.e. "there is no alternative" but develop and promote a people's agenda to counter the corporate agenda.
- that our campaigns of resistance must be rooted in the lived experience of people and their communities and that we need to develop a new language for economic and political literacy – (e.g. finance – student loans, credit financing, food – local supermarkets;
- that a wedge needs to be driven between the interests of big business and the needs of small business as a strategy for building more widespread resistance and alternatives;
- that coalition building amongst peoples organizations —labour, women, environmental, cultural, religion, ngo's—as well as diverse sectors of economy — are essential ingredients of a citizens politics to fight corporate power;
- that our campaigns must be firmly based on a fight for basic democratic rights (e.g.. Universal Declaration of Human Rights) and that governments (the state) can be re-empowered to dismantle the corporate agenda;
- that a common demand on governments be to draw a line in the sand saying no more liberalized trade and investment treaties until all other treaties and covenants—ranging from the universal declaration on Human Rights to the bio-diversity convention to the treaties with aboriginal peoples are put into effect with binding enforcement.

Common Actions

There were at least 3 identifiable "common" actions emerging from our forum on which priority should be put in the coming year:

1 An international campaign to kill the MAI. The next 6 months leading up to April 1998 and the OECD ministerial meeting will be crucial. Strategic intelligence indicates that we could win this battle if we mobilize resistance and play our cards right.

2 A more strategic focusing of existing and new campaigns which are aimed at corporation in key sectors of the Asia Pacific economy re: APEC (e.g. mining, forestry, fisheries, etc.) in the coming year leading up to the APEC Summit next year in Malaysia.

3 An International Week of Resistance Against Corporate Rule in which citizen and social movements at local, national, and international levels can target specific transnational corporations and highlight their operations (which is being organized under the auspices of the International Forum on Globalization starting in June, 1998).

Summit Recommendations

Our forum also had three recommendations to make to the organizers of the next people's summit in Malaysia:

- that the theme of APEC's corporate agenda and the role of transnational corporations as the driving forces behind liberalized trade and investment regimes become a major focal point for the 1998 Peoples Summit;

- that more priority and attention be given to developing and promoting a peoples' agenda that includes a platform of concrete policies, programs, and solutions for trade and investment in the Asia Pacific;
- that priority also be given to stimulating more integration between the various issue forums and themes at the People's Summit in the future.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we would like to highlight two strategic concerns:

1 The organizers, resource people, and the majority of participants in our forum maintain that APEC is fundamentally flawed. There were no recommendations coming out of our workshops to patch APEC up or make it better. If anything, there was a strong emphasis on rejecting APEC as a trade regime designed to facilitate the strategic interests of TNC's at the expense of other peoples and their basic needs. This does not, however, mean that an alternative trade and development pact could not or should not be designed for the Asia Pacific, based on a peoples' rather than a corporate agenda.

2 Our forum also discussed a missed strategic opportunity, namely, the need to confront the CEO Summit where 250 CEO's from some of the major corporate players in the Asia Pacific have been meeting at the Westin Bayshore Inn for 2-1/2 days here in Vancouver. Together CEO's have been in closed door sessions with several leading government and political figures, under the auspices of The Business Council on National Issues here in Canada, discussing investment plans and strategic coordinations. In the future, we need to be more vigilant about these CEO Summits and be prepared to publicly confront and unmask them as the real centres of power and decision making.

The People versus Poverty: Who will win?

The Forum was sponsored and organized by the Working Group on Poverty (GOP) in British Columbia's (B.C.) Lower Mainland, the International Council on Social Welfare, and also by the Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of B.C.

It opened with a blessing and prayer from Bob George, one of the indigenous elders from the land where the People's Summit is taking place.

The Forum attracted 250 delegates, representative of most of the APEC countries, including about 50 international delegates, and also including young and older people and a wide representation of persons from around B.C., and some from across Canada.

Speakers focused their comments from both an international and a Canadian perspective in three panels upon:

- key barriers to ending poverty
- what programs/policies have worked to end poverty?
- strategies for action

Small group discussions, following the panel presentations, discussed ideas for strategies, and also about cooperating among delegates and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) after the conclusion of this year's Summit.

These suggestions and ideas are being drawn together for a report which the Working Group will mail to all the participants of the Poverty Forum, and which we shall also make available to the Summit's delegates on the Virtual Summit.

Discussion

Poverty exists in every APEC country and is very prevalent in some of them. A substantial increase in poverty will result from the financial crises which have now hit several of the Asian member countries. On the other hand, there is an ample supply of resources within individual countries and in the APEC group as a whole to eradicate poverty. What is lacking is the necessary commitment from governments and reasonable cooperation from the business sector.

The Forum noted that every APEC member attended the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 which committed itself formally to the goal of eradicating poverty throughout the world. However, very little progress has been achieved on that pledge.

The Forum's participants agreed that it is essential that the fight against poverty be placed at the top of governments' agendas, and is focused on specific priority outcomes. Participants agreed that the people's Summit urge APEC to adopt the specific targets for reducing poverty by the year 2000 which were endorsed recently by more than fifty Social Development Ministers from the Asia Pacific region when they met in Manila to discuss implementation of the Copenhagen agreements. Those targets include, for example, specified reductions in absolute poverty, infant mortality, and malnutrition, and also improvements in life expectancy and access to basic education.

The Forum agreed that these targets will not be achieved unless the heads of government gathered in Vancouver take personal responsibility for doing so, and then require all of their Ministers, especially their Finance Ministers, to help them to honour that commitment. In addition, APEC should schedule implementation of the Copenhagen agreements as a major agenda item for discussion at its next two meetings leading up to the United Nations' review of implementation scheduled for the year 2000.

Participants agreed that the People's Summit should urge APEC members to cooperate to create an international environment which helps to reduce poverty rather than to create it. This applies to the economic environment, to the legal environment, and to the political environment.

For the economic environment, participants agreed that a very high priority is to reduce the volume and volatility of speculative international financial transactions. The excessive large and sudden rushes of funds between currencies, often on the basis of misinformation or misjudgement, are extremely damaging to long-term productive investment around the world and cause great hardship to individual countries and people. They represent not a market at work, but a casino at play, where the operators are playing not with chips but with other people's lives.

Another high priority economically is to reduce excessive tax competition between countries which operates currently to discourage long-term investment, in both the public and private sectors, in the kinds of productive activities that will provide goods and services that the community needs, and also jobs for its members. It also deprives governments of revenue which they need badly to help strengthen their communities and economies.

For the legal environment, a high priority is to ratify and enforce the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. These rights - relating to essentials such as food, housing, education, and work - are denied to many tens of millions of people throughout APEC, including in those countries which are loudest in their insistence on other important human rights such as freedom of assembly and of speech. Yet little or no attention is given to them; indeed, attempts have been made to weaken them in recent years.

Another high priority is to achieve full ratification and enforcement of core conventions of the International Labour Organization in relation to matters such as the right to organize and bargain collectively, child labour and forced labour, and prevention of discrimination. The provision of work opportunities for all is important but it must not be achieved at wage levels which are below the poverty line. However, great care must be taken to ensure that people in developing countries are not deprived unreasonably of their ability to attract work opportunities from other countries.

For the international political environment, regional intergovernmental bodies should play a more prominent role in fighting against poverty. This includes, for example, the long-established Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Pacific Forum, as well as emerging regional networks such as Mercosur. Closer interaction and cooperation at this level, between countries which are close together and in broadly similar circumstances, is much more likely to benefit the less-affluent countries and people, than is an ill-assorted multi-region group such as APEC which is dominated by a few major economies.

Agreement

Everyone in the Forum agreed that the focus of APEC simply on economics, and not upon the distribution of wealth and resources, and not upon the protection of human rights, is fundamentally wrong.

Everyone agreed that individual persons are not responsible for being impoverished, and that it is just unacceptable that the rich across this country are getting richer, and the poor poorer.

People who are poor in Canada are a minority of our population. However, the more important distinction is that a majority of Canadians, not just the minority of persons who are impoverished, do not benefit from APEC. They also do not benefit from the narrow economic focus of Canadian governments. Therefore, solidarity among the majority of Canadians, whose concerns are not being met, is crucial in order to change the decisions being made in the interests of rich people primarily.

Heads of government throughout APEC must assert personal responsibility for their countries adopting specific targets to reduce poverty by the year 2000.

Action

Therefore, the Forum's participants agreed that people's / community organizations in APEC countries will cooperate to:

1. expand the coalition of groups and people who are opposed to the narrow focus of APEC on economics.
2. urge their heads of government to honour their countries' commitment in Copenhagen to eliminate absolute poverty.

And, people's / community organizations in Canada, in particular, will cooperate to:

1. priorize public education about poverty issues, so that eradicating poverty will be on the public agenda, and that myths which feed poor-bashing will just not be tolerated.
2. demand that the Canadian Government live up to its commitment to eradicate absolute poverty in this country, and especially, to eradicate child poverty by the agreed target year of 2000 A.D.
3. demand action by the provincial government here on Canada's west coast to change the legislation that keeps people impoverished, and also makes it more difficult to escape from poverty.

Statement of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus

Kia koutou katoa kua tai mai nei i roto i tenei huihuinga, tena koutou.

In the Name of our Creator, of Mother Earth and in honour of our all ancestors met together here in British Columbia.

We the indigenous peoples representing the regions of South, Central and North America, Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific Islands begin by acknowledging the considerable work in the arena of the rights of indigenous peoples over a long period of time preceding this caucus. We have gathered here at Vancouver to express our deep concerns over a wide range of issues that continue to impact on indigenous peoples.

1. The indigenous peoples represented at this caucus unequivocally oppose the APEC processes that are represented at the -APEC Leaders' Conference here in Vancouver. We declare that the APEC agenda acts to further endanger and undermine indigenous people's power over their lands, their ancestral territories and natural resources. In this regard we vehemently oppose the agenda of the current APEC Leaders Meeting for fast-tracking the removal of tariffs for fisheries and forestries.

2. The indigenous peoples' caucus calls on the governments represented at the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Vancouver to withdraw from negotiations regarding the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. The Multilateral Agreement on Investment seeks to create legislation which will override international agreements in the arenas of indigenous peoples rights, labour conventions, environmental agreements and regulations and human rights issues and which will license the plunder and pillage of resources in the name of open economies and trade liberalisation.

3. We call on the governments represented at the APEC Leaders' Meeting to immediately adopt the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples without further change or amendment.

4. We also call on the governments of Canada, the United States, Chile, Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand to ratify the ILO Convention 169 regarding indigenous and tribal peoples' rights in independent countries. The ratification of these two documents expresses the desires and aspirations of the indigenous peoples of the world and we seek the support of the APEC Peoples' Summit in requesting the ratification of these documents by the APEC governments.

5. The indigenous people's caucus also seeks support in our efforts for the protection of indigenous peoples' cultural and intellectual knowledge and properties which are at this moment being plundered by transnational pharmaceutical and manufacturing companies as well as by genetic scientists.

6. The indigenous peoples' caucus deplores the devastating impact on the social, economic and cultural structures of indigenous people's by mega-projects involving, for example, clear cut logging, mining operations, the establishment of unsustainable fisheries practices and the planned construction of a huge highway in the La Costa area of Chile which will involve the massive dislocation of the indigenous MAPUCHE people and the total disruption of their lives and livelihood.

7. We also deplore the amoral actions of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund which bankrupt indigenous peoples in the name of aid and development. These practices include attempts

at land mobilisation in Papua New Guinea as a means of accessing indigenous peoples lands, the imposition of aid monies in the Pacific which functions to create enormous indebtedness, and the continued occupation of indigenous communities by military regimes in the name of industrial development.

8. The indigenous peoples' caucus deplores the co-option of state-appointed indigenous elites in efforts to gain the consensus of indigenous peoples to practices which function to benefit the elite minority, to further marginalise the many, and which are in opposition to fundamental indigenous and spiritual values.

9. The indigenous peoples' caucus is committed to the promotion and development of alternative global networks and strategies for sustainable and equitable development practices which are embedded in our shared indigenous cultural values of collectivity and co-operativeness, of guardianship for the land, and of traditionally-based methods of husbandry.

10. We of the indigenous peoples' caucus have determined the continuing existence of an Indigenous Peoples' Forum on a culturally-appropriate and self-determined basis at future APEC Peoples' Summits beginning with that in Malaysia in 1998.

11. The indigenous peoples' caucus honours and uplifts the efforts of our women and youth in renewing and preserving the holistic way of indigenous peoples' spiritual life. Finally, we express our gratitude to the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs for hosting us here in our meeting and our greetings and thanks to the organisers of this 1997 APEC Peoples' Summit.

Na reira, kia koutou katoa, tena koutou, tena koutou, tena ra koutou katoa.

Report on

The Fourth Annual INTERCEDE Domestic Worker's Conference

November 15 & 16, 1997 - Vancouver BC.

1. Introduction

Since 1994, INTERCEDE, an organization of domestic workers based in Toronto, has been organizing a yearly interprovincial conference that has resulted in effective networking, closer work relations and coordination of activities among similar advocacy and member-based organizations in Ontario, BC and Saskatchewan.

In 1997, this annual conference took on a more urgent and significant character because the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit meeting of leaders was being hosted by Canada. Trade arrangements among APEC countries to quicken the pace of economic integration undeniably had a serious impact on the lives of women, particularly those migrating for work around the world, which was not being addressed in APEC.

The Committee for Domestic Workers' and Caregivers' Rights (CDWCR) of Vancouver, an affiliate of INTERCEDE since 1993, hosted this fourth annual meeting of domestic workers, caregivers and nannies, most of whom were admitted to Canada on temporary work permits under the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP) or Foreign Domestic Movement (FDM) and are now citizens, landed immigrants or migrant workers on temporary permits.

The two-day conference was held on November 15, and 16, 1997 at the Hospital Employee's' Union hall in Vancouver. It took place just before the opening of the Women's Conference against APEC on November 17 - a non-government activity which together with the People's Summit on APEC preceded, in turn, the official APEC meeting of government leaders.

Participants

There were a total of 48 participants in the conference, including eight from Regina, Saskatchewan and Toronto, Ontario, and three foreign delegates from Indonesia. Represented were the following organizations:

1. International Caregivers of Regina Inc.
2. Immigrant Women of Saskatchewan, Regina chapter
3. INTERCEDE for the Rights of Domestic Workers, Caregivers and Newcomers - Toronto
4. INTERCEDE Caregivers Cooperative Inc. - Toronto
5. Committee for Domestic Workers' and Caregivers Rights - Vancouver
6. West Coast Domestic Workers' Association - Vancouver
7. Filipino Migrant Workers of BC - Vancouver
8. Vancouver & Lower Mainland Multicultural Family Support Services
9. Solidarita Perampuan - Jakarta, Indonesia
10. Migrant Workers Crisis Centre - Mataram, Indonesia
11. Terminal 29 Coalition of Community Organizations - Kasim, Indonesia

In addition, there were six full-day and some dozen part-time observers attending from Status of Women Canada and various media and other organizations such as CBC.

Lessons learned from Past conferences

As a background for first-time participants, past conference delegates shared some of the key

characteristics and lessons they learned and appreciated from previous assemblies:

1. INTERCEDE conferences are working conferences where all participants, not just presenters and facilitators, have to take responsibility for learning and sharing the work.
2. We learn to challenge government policies, such as immigration policies that make our lives more difficult. For example, we opposed the "head tax" of $975 that we now have to raise over and above the processing fee of $500.
3. We are able to share much information about each other and to compare our conditions of work and the employment standards in different provinces.
4. We attained a basic understanding of structural adjustment programs and national debts and how these affect our lives as migrant workers when we met just before the Beijing Women's conference.
5. We became assertive of our rights as migrants and as domestic workers because we learned that we have and deserve those rights.
6. We learned for the first time what economic globalization means and how it affects us.
7. We learned to empower ourselves to make decisions for our own benefit and interest.
8. We came out of the conferences with plans and commitments to take action or organize activities in coordination with each other.

2. Goals and Expectations for this Conference

- To share the past year's struggles and experiences and propose ideas for meeting the challenges ahead, particularly in the area of immigration, human rights and labour protection;
- To learn about APEC and how related economic policies and trade agreements directly impact on the lives of migrant women and domestic workers; then to link our organizing and advocacy work on the local and national levels to international movements and campaigns;
- To decide on the manner of our participation and the demands we will advance at both the Women's Conference Against APEC and at the People's Summit on APEC;
- Finally, to decide on activities and campaigns at the local and provincial levels and on what coordinated campaigns we will carry out for the next year.

Rules for the Conference

To achieve our goals and maximize everyone's participation and learning, we agreed to create a safe environment for discussion and debate. We proposed and committed ourselves to the following rules.

- Listen without being judgmental; respect others' opinions
- Use simple words and clear language that we are comfortable in
- Avoid argumentative, boasting, intimidating and domineering behaviour
- Focus on the agenda and time schedules, start and end on time
- Wait for your turn, give every one a chance to speak
- Ask for clarification, pose questions, participate fully
- Avoid forming "cliques"; exercise equality and democracy

3. Funding and Other Acknowledgments

This conference took at least six months of preparation and mobilization, expenses for which were initially covered by CDWCR and its members in BC as well as INTERCEDE in Toronto. Donations in cash and kind came from various organizations particularly the Canadian Auto Workers Union, the Hospital Employees Union, the Public Service Association of Canada and a few individuals wishing to remain anonymous.

For all in-kind, financial and other donations we give heartfelt thanks to union friends and supporters of our organizations.

We specially acknowledge with deep appreciation the work done by the Conference coordinator, Julie Diesta of CDWCR, without whose generous effort and energy, this conference could not have taken place.

At the last minute, that is on November 13, 1997, Status of Women Canada responded positively to INTERCEDE' S request for funds (made through the National Action Committee on the Status of Women) in connection with women NGO's input into the APEC process.

We acknowledge with much appreciation the financial assistance given by Status of Women Canada for this Fourth INTERCEDE Domestic Workers' Conference.

Highlights of Conference Discussions

I. What's been Happening and what have we been doing since our last conference?

A. Focus on Key problems

1. Changes to Employment Standards

BC delegates presented the challenges they faced after BC's employment standards were revised. In particular, CDWCR stressed the need to observe and analyze the consequences of implementing a central registry of domestic workers. They expressed these specific concerns:

- what happens to employers who do not register their workers?
- what effective penalties should be imposed against such employers?
- how will domestic workers' organizations access information from this Registry?
- how best to assure or enhance the rights of migrant workers (on temporary work permits) and domestic workers through this Registry.

We followed with discussions about the potential benefits we could expect from a Central Registry and the reasons why our organizations advocated to include it in provincial labour laws. We saw a mandatory central registry of domestic workers as:

- a way to reach domestic workers, caregivers etc. and inform than of their rights;
- an avenue through which to organize them;
- a step towards collective bargaining by sector;
- and thus, as a potential not only for enforcing employment standards but also to improve working conditions generally.

In Ontario changes to Employment Standards limited the period within which domestic workers could claim for unpaid wages and other violations. Previously, they had two years within which to file a claim but this period is now down to six months. Accompanying this change was a limit on the amount ($10,000) that workers can claim for. These and other changes further discourage domestic workers from making any claim for lost wages; these changes facilitate more, not less abuses against them by unscrupulous employers.

2. Immigration Requirements for Sponsoring Families

Women shared difficulties they were having just to be able to reunite families from whom they had been separated for five years on average. The fees for processing and obtaining landed immigrant status were just the beginning of their problems. Stricter application of the $10,000 Sponsorship Bond, for example, gave rise to more oppressive situations particularly for abused women. Medical or other inadmissibility of spouse or children affected the future of whole families and delayed granting of landed immigrant status to women who might have already completed all the requirements of the LCP. Furthermore, there were emotional and

psychological problems to deal with as they resumed family ties that had been disrupted during long years of separation.

3. Cuts in Government Funding

Reduced funding for immigration and other services presented problems that affected domestic workers who rely greatly on these services. Less funding meant less access to immigration information and less information meant greater vulnerability to abuses. Domestic workers talked about increasing problems connected to sponsoring dependents and reunifying families that were aggravated by funding cuts to government and community services.

On the other hand, stress aggravated the already insecure and unhealthy working conditions of staff members, advocates and counsellors in service agencies dealing with new immigrants and temporary workers. Faced with financial instability, community agencies felt the pressure to raise funds from other sources. Meanwhile, fundraising tasks are taking chunks of time that are better spent meeting the organizing and advocacy needs of vulnerable women.

4. Community Economic Development Initiatives

Meanwhile, we continued to pursue economic development projects that might sustain our organizations as well as provide decent employment. In Vancouver workers are finalizing their market study modelled after Toronto's employment service cooperative, the INTERCEDE Workers' Cooperative Inc.

In Saskatchewan, domestic workers are maintaining a small catering business that is able to supplement women's incomes and supply some needed organizational funds.

Exchange of information about these fledgling economic initiatives touched on the difficulties of meeting funding requirements, raising working capital or obtaining business loans as well as struggles to learn the skills of running their own businesses or managing and operating a workers' cooperative.

B. Actions at the local Level

In this past year, our organizations met the challenges they confronted as best they could. They intensified their methods of sharing information and building networks among unorganized migrant and domestic workers. They worked in coalitions to fight adverse labour and immigration rules. They trained their members in organizing and leadership skills. They also encouraged upgrading of their caregiving and other job skills.

For the coming year, groups are geared to follow-up actions at the local level:

1) Vancouver groups will monitor the implementation of the Central Registry and propose a listing of employers who violate employment standards.
2) All groups will attempt to do outreach to new arrivals in the LCP by working with airport-based community information agencies or by proposing other means to do this outreach to newcomers.
3) We will share information with each other about the different community economic development initiatives we are engaged in and try our best to document our experiences more systematically.
4) Regina groups plan to do outreach with migrant women workers and mail-order brides particularly in outlying and rural areas.
5) Ontario groups will organize against decimation of Employment standards in the province, particularly those that directly affect domestic workers.
6) All groups will increase networking and outreach activities in order to advocate for and assist migrant women workers in the "entertainment" and sex-slavery trader including those with irregular or without proper documents.
7) We will continue to provide information and education workshops to develop organizing and leadership as well as job skills.

C. Coordinated Campaigns and Follow-up

Meanwhile, we pursued two important coordinated actions throughout this past year which we updated and reported on. This led to discussions about what follow-up measures to pursue.

1. Campaign for Points for Domestic workers

Following a resolution from the previous conference, we commissioned a volunteer to write a Brief on the Immigration Points System based on survey questionnaires that were submitted by domestic workers. This document was discussed for content and follow-up action.

First, participants offered background information, opinions and incisive comments regarding the Immigration Points system and our Brief:

- domestic and caregiver workers are being discriminated against in the Immigration Points System;
- a domestic worker cannot gain enough Points to be able to enter Canada as a landed immigrant because domestic work is not given any Points in the Points System;
- there are no Points given to domestic work - this means that domestic work is not given any value;
- not giving any value to domestic work stems from traditional downgrading of women and the work they do, particularly their work in the home;
- discrimination against domestic workers is discrimination based on gender, because domestic workers applying to enter Canada are mainly women;
- this discrimination turns out to be racist because most applicants are women of colour and originating from poor countries of the Third World;
- since these applicants are predominantly impoverished women of colour, the discrimination in the system of admission is based on class;
- the Live-in Caregiver Program imposes conditions that do not apply to other workers entering the country, such as making living-in in the employer's household a condition for valid status in the country;
- when we ask for changes to the Immigration Points System in order to recognize domestic work, give it points and allow domestic workers to enter Canada as landed immigrants, we are in effect asking for an end to sexist, racist and classist treatment of a certain group of people seeking admission.
- we must make clear that we are for opening access equitably and that our demands should not be used to generate discrimination against women with less education, for example;
- we must be careful that we do not perpetrate discrimination against Caribbean women whilst removing it for Filipino women;
- we must be clear that we are for ending the Live-in Caregiver Program only if domestic and caregiver workers are able to enter Canada through the Points System;
- we should not fall into the trap of being accused of closing Canada entirely to domestic workers by advocating the end of the LCP through our advocacy for Points for domestic and caregiver workers

Follow-up Actions on the Points Campaign

1) Educate members, friends and the public about our demand for Points for domestic work.
2) Seek endorsement of our Brief from our individual organizations and from important national organizations such as the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and the Canadian Labour Congress.
3) Submit our Brief to the Immigration Law Review Committee that has been designated by the Canadian Government to overhaul the Immigration and Refugee system.
4) Make representations to the Minister of Immigration and present her with our Brief on the occasion of NAC's meeting with her on December 4, 1997.
5) Seek endorsement and support for our Brief at the NGO Women's Conference against APEC and at

the People's Summit on APEC.

6) Participate in consultations related to the review of Canada's immigration and refugee system.
7) Propose additional points for experience to make up for lack of education of domestic workers.

2. Appeal to Canada to sign the United Nations Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families

In the previous conference, we decided on a national campaign to obtain signatures to an Appeal for the Canadian government to sign this Convention. Participants shared background, insights and experiences that informed the discussion.

- for this Convention to take effect, 20 countries must sign and ratify it;
- only nine countries have ratified the Convention so far, none of which are receiving countries of migrant workers;
- international instruments such as this Convention raise standards for the protection of migrant workers' rights and serve as a moral and ethical guide for how countries should treat them;
- Canada has a reputation for championing the human rights of people, therefore, it is very disappointing why this government refuses to sign the international Convention;
- the reasons given against Canada's ratification of this Convention are not acceptable; there must be ways to overcome the government's objections or hesitation;
- it should be made clear what the real reasons are for the resistance of the Canadian government against signing this Convention;
- all groups advocating for migrant rights consider the effectivity of the Convention as a priority;
- the ratification of this Convention was a key demand of migrant workers' groups at the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women.

Follow-up Actions on the Campaign to Ratify the Convention

1) Raise the issue of migrant workers' rights in the NGO Women's Conference against APEC and in the People's Summit on APEC, and include our concerns in their Statements.
2) Participate in migrant group caucus meetings at the People's Summit on APEC and seek support for the Canada campaign.
3) Continue advocating with the Canadian government and seek endorsement of national organizations for our Appeal.
4) Launch a creative campaign for migrant groups to express their demands as we work towards the next APEC summit meeting in Malaysia i.e. create a quilt-banner in each organization that we will join together at the next APEC assembly.

II. What's Globalization? What's APEC? What do we Care?

A. Focus on Impact of Globalization on Migrant Domestic Workers

Conference delegates reflected on their lived experience as women who left their homes in search of domestic and caregiving work abroad. They then offered their analytical insights into the global economic integration process.

- The economic priorities that governments chose to pursue have often had negative effects on their citizens.
- Economic programs have caused displacement of whole communities and this has been most obvious in the displacement and disenfranchisement of aboriginal or indigenous peoples.
- Displacement of communities result from "development projects" such as building dams to generate

government meeting - it is our prerogative to exercise democracy and to demand transparency in government dealings.

- We must strengthen democracy, not allow it to be weakened.

C. Actions on APEC

Apart from the actions already discussed in relation to the Points campaign and the Appeal to sign the Migrant Rights Convention, the Conference stipulated further that:

1 We will join the activities of the People's Summit on APEC, particularly the people's march on November 23 and the women's educational activity November 24.
2 We will publish a fact sheet about APEC and its specific impact on migrant women workers.
3 We will educate about APEC using cultural forms such as dramatic skits and through media work.
4 We will exchange information about APEC developments during the year.
5 We will propose simple actions that small groups can accomplish among participants in the Migrant Caucus such as producing parts of the migrant rights quilt for the Malaysia conference.]

Post Conference Notes

About eight domestic workers were able to attend the subsequent Women's Conference against APEC and the People's Summit.

Within the Migrant Caucus - representing groups from Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Philippines, the U.S. and Canada - we reviewed the results of the Labour and Migrant Forum in Manila the year before. We committed to take up the following actions:

1) Continue lobbying our governments to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
2) Attempt to conduct coordinated campaigns targeting specific countries such as the ongoing Canada campaign.
3) Recognize December 18 - the anniversary of the passage of the Convention at the United Nations General Assembly - as an International Day of Solidarity for Migrant Workers
4) Urge Unions to support migrant workers' conferences and activities including speaking tours.
5) Systematically pursue an urgent alert network to respond to violations of migrants' rights.
6) Better preparation for the APEC in Malaysia including organizing workshops on migrant workers' issues well ahead of time.

Evaluations

- Enthusiasm for formally organizing a national network of domestic workers' organizations in Canada. Regina offered to start the inquiry into the financial feasibility of this project.
- Positive comments about the wealth of information that was generated and that participants were able to easily absorb;
- Appreciation for the Great Women participants who remained strong and caring despite difficult conditions of work and harassment on the job.
- Compliments for energetic facilitation of the Conference by Cenen Bagon and Fely Villasin.
- Appreciation for the active participation of delegates from Indonesia.
- Confirmed women's familiarity with the issues that affect them, their analysis and decisive action.
- Rejuvenating experience and inspiring determination of domestic workers to have their work recognized.
- Learned the impact of APEC and the changes needed just by sharing each of our different experiences.
- Informative about local conditions and local struggles.

- Exciting vista of our work that goes beyond national borders and puts into relief the international nature of migration and migrant rights work.
- Good Food and lots of Fun.
- Empowering and self affirming to domestic workers.
- We overcame barriers and strengthened each other's commitment to fight for our rights.
- Our conferences are never boring!!!

Pacific Peoples' Declaration on APEC

Eighty delegates from the Pacific Islands, Asia and the Americas gathered together at the 14th annual Pacific Networking Conference, which took place at the Lau Welnew Tribal School in Saanich, British Columbia, Canada, November 14-16, 1997. Twelve nation states, sixteen First Nations and over fifty organisations were represented, including Indigenous Peoples, taro-roots activists, human rights activists, environmentalists, members of local and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), educators, professionals, academics and others.

The conference participants wish to express their warm appreciation for the welcome and hospitality provided to them by the Tsartlip First Nation during the course of the conference.

We, the participants of the 14th annual Pacific Networking Conference, reject the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) process for regional trade liberalisation and other mechanisms for economic globalisation. These processes put corporate profits as the overriding priority, while marginalizing or even neglecting people's needs and the environment.

We note with concern that the development debates focused around APEC and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) have been dominated by a narrow range of voices, primarily those from corporate bodies and governments, while the voices of the people that need to be heard are restricted to the periphery. We call for a widening of the debate on globalisation to involve the people who are already being disadvantaged by the undemocratic processes being pursued in establishing the trade and investment agreements and treaties.

We reaffirm the work of the United Nations as they develop international agreements that protect the rights of peoples and the environment, such as the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD). We oppose the tendency of governments to adopt trade and investment agreements that seriously undermine these important social and environmental commitments.

We support the following principles:

- to promote and fully guarantee respect for the rights of peoples, especially the rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- to promote and fully guarantee the rights of women, youth, and children;
- to ensure the preservation, protection and sustainable use of our environment; and
- to support global structures that promote sustainable and equitable human development as embedded in our cultural values.

APEC is not viable for Pacific Peoples. APEC is a process which increases corporate control of people's lives, resulting in massive dislocation of peoples, especially women and children. The health of our communities, land, water, and other resources is seriously compromised. As an example, the Pacific Teal will sail from France to Japan via the Tasman Sea, and Solomon Islands and Federated States of Micronesia waters in late 1997 or early 1998. Pacific Teal will carry plutonium and high level radioactive waste which could severely threaten our environment.

We assert our support for the struggles for self-determination by the peoples of East Timor, West

Papua, Kanaky, French-occupied Polynesia, Rapa Nui, Aotearoa, the Aboriginal Peoples of Australia and the Torres Strait Islands, and Hawai'i.

We want to promote alternative trading networks based on our own traditional values and principles. As an example, the production of eco-timber for an environmentally conscious and expanding market in Europe is providing a solid alternative to thousands of resource- and land-owning communities throughout the Pacific. In one case, whereas a 20 foot log would have fetched forty dollars from a Malaysian logging company, it is now fetching four hundred dollars when marketed as eco-timber. The profits available to the resource- and land-owning communities have therefore increased by 900 percent.

Pacific Islanders, many of whom still own their lands and resources, are in a position to promote alternative systems of trade. Pacific peoples are choosing models of sustainable development that can remind communities in other parts of the world that there are viable alternatives to APEC.

Civil Society and Labour Rights in Indonesia: Advocacy and Networking for Democracy

Sponsored by: Indonesia Canada Alliance, INFID (International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development), YAPPIKA - Indonesian Foundation to Strengthen People's Participation, Partnerships and Initiatives

Purpose:

1. To inform and present analysis on Indonesian issues,
2. To develop our advocacy skills,
3. To build solidarity among Canadians, Indonesians and international participants on Indonesia,
4. To draft action plans for future work in support of Indonesian activists.

Agenda:

Morning - Presentations by three Indonesian speakers who set the context and outlined current issues, followed by discussion.

Afternoon - Presentations by three activists experienced in advocacy work, followed by small groups working on advocacy strategies on four issues.

Proceedings:

The workshop opened with welcoming remarks by the Chair, Barbara Duffield.

The first speaker was Dr. George Aditjondro, lecturer in sociology at the University of Newcastle, Australia. Dr. Aditjondro currently lives in Australia rather than face unjust imprisonment or worse, after speaking out about issues within Indonesia. He is active in the environmental, democracy and economic justice fields.

Dr. Aditjondro began by paying tribute to Muchtar Pakpahan who founded the trade union SBSI and advocated for worker's rights and to Dita Indah Sari, founder and leader of the radical trade union, PPBI, who has been sentenced to six years and is often forgotten by fellow unionists in the west. Mr. Pakpahan also defended the right of self-determination for East Timorese. Now serving a four year sentence related to labour unrest in Medan in 1994, and currently in hospital, Mr. Pakpahan awaits his trial on subversion charges.

We were reminded that democracy in both Canada and Indonesia is fragile - in Canada, democracy is overruled by money, while in Indonesia it is overruled by guns. The concepts of "rental democracy" and "rental wealth" demonstrate the links between Indonesia and Canada. Democracy in Canada is used to pressure the Government of Indonesia to listen to their people, thereby Indonesian activists "rent" democracy from the west. The rent paid by Indonesians to use democracy in this way may be their freedom, since they risk arrest by the Indonesian authorities upon return from events such as the People's Summit on APEC. Indonesians also pay rent in the form of the wealth accumulated by the North.

Repressive regimes are good for business: the military / arms trade makes money, and as well, an attractive environment is created for foreign investment through the clamp down on social unrest. Moreover, military aid is used to control the development of social movements.

Suggestions for focusing international solidarity action included stopping military aid, ceasing corporate links with Indonesia, and making strategic ties between social movements in the North and South. For example, the dumping of wheat displaced the production of rice by poor Indonesian farmers and changed their traditional diet. Another example is INCO, a Canadian mining corporation, which is expanding in Central Sulawesi and West Papua.

Ms Tati Krisnawaty spoke next. She is the Executive Director of Solidaritas Perempuan (Women's

Solidarity), a non-governmental organization located in Jakarta, focused on the rights of women migrant workers.

Unequal development means that the situation for many workers is dire, and they seek new opportunities to support their families by migrating to other countries. Most of the migrant workers are from Java, and typically they go to Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan or Hong Kong. Very few come to Canada (106). As migrant workers in host countries, they have no right to organize themselves for their own protection.

In addition, poverty is feminized. Women workers typically receive very low wages and there are no regulations to protect them.

Some activists view APEC as an opportunity to strengthen the position of workers, however others regard APEC as the problem, not the solution.

Mr. Johny Simanjuntak, the third speaker, is a lawyer and heads the NGO Advocacy for Social Transformation, based in Solo. His work providing legal advice for poor people is intended to develop their capacity to defend their own rights.

The main problem for workers is that wages are too low to meet their minimal basic needs. The legal system ideally would support workers, however laws do not always protect them.

Three forms of law are authority law, the law of company's, and people's law. Currently, the law limits the rights of workers to unionize, to strike and to receive a wage sufficient for their needs. The poorest people are not protected and strong unions are not currently possible.

Until 1980 the labour movement was ineffective, with few NGOs or middle class people supporting the movement. SPSI took on the role of a labour union as the government sanctioned union. Then, during the 1980's, intellectuals started to speak out on working conditions, and greater awareness was fostered through international involvement. However, it is not yet clear whether these have been the most effective strategies.

There are three types of unions: the first is directed by workers, the second is led by non-workers, and the third has a membership that is not necessarily workers. Both SBSI and SPSI are classified as of the second type, led by non-workers. However, a better strategy, according to Mr. Simanjuntak, is unions organized and directed by workers.

Major Issues

The afternoon session facilitated active involvement by the participants to engage on the issues. First, Michael Clague, ICA Vice-Chair, summarized the major issues that emerged from the morning's presentations and discussions:

- labour rights and labour standards
- migrant labour rights
- feminization of poverty - unequal development
- human rights and legal rights, and underdeveloped legal institutions
- East Timor

Advocacy Strategies

A three-person panel presented summaries of their experience as advocates, in order to support skills development for continuing work with Indonesian activists:

Tony Wohlfarth

1. Listen to the voices of Indonesian activists when making advocacy campaigns. For example, they have said to broaden the solidarity campaign for the release of political prisoners to include all leaders rather than focus on one person.
2. Take action on the government policies that create the conditions for exploitation, such as the labour

laws which violate ILO conventions on freedom of association. Using this as an example, campaigns focused on major corporations that violate their own "codes of conduct" brings international attention to the violations of labour rights. Speaking tours and delegations are key elements of this education and mobilization strategy.

3. Pressure our own (western/northern) governments to influence the IMF, as it implements terms of conditionality for its financial assistance in Indonesia. For example, pressure the IMF to use its conditionality to request Indonesia repeal the Manpower Bill, undertake meaningful democratic reforms leading to economic and political stability, and ensure compliance with UN resolutions on East Timor. Curtail all military sales to Indonesia.
4. Request our own (western/northern) governments to promote human rights in its relations with Indonesia.

Jeannine Guthrie, Human Rights Watch Asia

1. Before taking any advocacy action, there must be extensive discussion on strategy and content with activists in the country involved to be sure that action is helping rather than hindering their work.
2. Build cooperative links among NGOs at the local level that share common interests.
3. Build from local campaigns, i.e. within Indonesia, linking the information flow from the local level to regional and international solidarity work. The campaign can benefit from synergy. Make use of global networks.
4. Gain international attention and clout by finding a "hook" to make it real for the rest of the world, and ensure a loop of local and international advocacy. As an example, the World Bank was pressured into action on child labour, since the Bank was involved in related project funding.
5. Campaigns based on letter-writing from people around the world and based on consumer boycotts are useful but must first be tailored to the specific local context.
6. Engage with the leaders of the emerging Human Rights Commissions.
7. Make use of legal strategies, when it can work, or push for the legal structures and protections to be built.
8. Use professional associations to link people to issues, for example, link journalists in Canada to Indonesian journalists. Also, engage with business groups.

Merran Smith, Sierra Club (Victoria, Canada)

1. With a membership based organization, the membership becomes a lobbying force at the grassroots that can be mobilized around issues.
2. Be clear on who the advocacy campaign is targeting.
3. Do careful analysis to clarify public opinion on the advocacy issue, and ensure that the issue can be connected to their needs. People need to see the relationship from their personal perspective.
4. Speaking tours to Canada and delegations to the country of the advocacy campaign help connect people to the issue. Then the people touched by their experience are asked to relay their concern to their own network of friends and colleagues.
5. Credibility is critical so the facts must be right.
6. Visual tools work well in communicating with the public, for example, maps or slides.
7. The message to the public must also include some action that people can undertake so that they are empowered.
8. Project accompaniments, where Canadians serve as observers and accompany people back to their homelands and stay with them for a period of time, can protect local activists and educate the public about the issues.
9. An element of fun is important too.

The issues presented by the Indonesian speakers, combined with the lessons learned presented by the advocacy campaigners, fueled the small working groups in their discussions around what actions could be undertaken by the international solidarity community. The suggestions were not endorsed as resolutions by the participants, but follow-up will be initiated where possible.

The groups focused on:

1. Monitoring and assisting Indonesian participants on their return home
2. Human rights
3. Migrant workers
4. East Timor * Note: this group comprised one Canadian only.

Group work summaries:

1. Monitoring and assisting Indonesian participants on their return home

In the context of possible reprisals by the Government, the group developed plans to support Indonesian participants by maintaining telephone contact with them, and liaising with other international NGO supporters.

2. Human rights

Recommendations:

- Stop the complicity of the Canadian government with the Suharto regime, by cutting off military aid to Indonesia, stopping the arms trade, stopping the proposed naval exchanges and military attaches to Canada, and stopping RCMP training of police officers if not related to human rights training
- Increase aid to local NGOs in Indonesia, and build stronger linkages among Indonesian and Canadian NGOs
- Request the Canadian government to lobby the Indonesian government for increased independence with enforcement mechanisms for the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission (Komnas Ham)
- Work with our partners in Indonesia for the repeal of the Manpower Act, and ratification of the UN Covenant on Migrant Workers
- Recommend to the Canadian government that pressure be applied on countries that abuse migrant workers to comply with the international agreements
- Strengthen trade union links with legitimate Indonesian trade unions
- Send observers to monitor Canadian corporate conduct and encourage these corporations to recognize freedom of association and collective bargaining rights of their workers
- Work for the release of Mochtar Pakpahan and Dita Indah Sari and other political/trade union/ human rights activists now in prison

3. Migrant workers

Migrant workers are a phenomenon of the marginalization of women and technological change, among other factors, so that they are unable to secure a livelihood. Migrant worker's problems occur at the pre-departure stage, during their contract and on re-entry. Strategies to support migrant workers include:

- Establish centres to provide information to potential migrant workers on their rights and the challenges they will face overseas
- Establish solidarity crisis centres in the receiving countries, staffed with nationals from the host country as well as the sending country, with action protocols to assist migrant workers in need
- Urge the Indonesian government to ratify the UN Convention on Migrant Workers and other appropriate protective mechanisms

4. **East Timor**

- Hold a referendum on self-determination in East Timor, with the international community supporting this work through the UN and APEC, and in particular Portuguese initiatives
- Support Indonesian and East Timorese activists to work together
- Disseminate information from East Timor through the international community
- Facilitate Indonesian accompaniment
- Support Indonesian counterparts

Conclusion

The workshop finished with appreciation expressed by all speakers, panelists and participants. Thanks were especially extended to all the Indonesian speakers and participants.

Supporters

These organizations through their financial and in-kind contributions to the work of the Summit helped to make the 1997 People's Summit on APEC a success.

Asia Partnership for Human Development
Amnesty International (Group 17)
Anglican Church of Canada
APEC Research and Information Network, University of British Columbia, British Columbia Canada
BC Council for International Cooperation
BC Federation of Labour
BC Government and Service Employees' Union
BC Teacher's Federation
BC Tel Advanced Communications
BC Tel Mobility
Campbell River, Courtenay and District Labour Council
CAW/TCA
CAW/TCA Airline local 1990
Canada Asia Working Group
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives
Canadian Council for International Cooperation
Canadian Environmental Network
Canadian Federation of Students - BC
Canadian Labour Congress
Centre for Foreign Policy Development (Government of Canada)
CUSO - BC
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada, Local 226
Council of Canadians
Department of Foreign Affairs and Industrial Trade (Government of Canada)
East Timor Alert Network
Forum Populaire sur l'APEC
George North Chair, Labour Studies, Capilano College
Gramma Publications
Government of British Columbia
Health Sciences Association of British Columbia
Humanistisch Instituut Voor Ontwikkelingssamenwerking (HIVOS)
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development
International Development Research Centre
Kamloops and District Labour Council
Langara College Student Union
Oblate Social Justice Office (BC)
Office & Professional Employees' International Union (Local 378)
Ontario Federation of Labour
Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation
Oxfam America

National Action Committee on the Status of Women
Peace River District Labour Council
St. Andrews Wesley United Church
Simons Foundation
Trade Union Research Bureau
Union of BC Indian Chiefs
Unitarian Service Committee
Unitarian Universalists Service Committee
United Church of Canada
United Steelworkers of America
YWCA of Vancouver
Vancouver and District Labour Council
Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Community Development
West Coast Environmental Law Association

Contacts

Issue Forums

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Asia-Pacific Charter of People's Rights: Globalizing Solidarities: Dominique Caouette, Centre for Developing Area Studies, tel/fax (514)747-1532 (dominque_caouette@babylon.montreal.qc.ca), Michel Lambert, Alternatives, tel (514) 982-6606, fax (514) 982-6122

The Second International Women's Conference Against APEC: Elsie Dean, 219 - 1675 West 8th Ave.., Vancouver, BC, V6J 1V2, email: sbdean@sfu.ca

Open Markets, Open Media: Shauna Sylvester, IMPACS, 910-207 West Hastings St., Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6B 1H7, tel: (604)687-7408, fax: (604) 683-8536, email: sylvest@planeteer.com

Public education and Research: Larry Kuehn, BC Teachers' Federation, tel: (604) 871-2255, fax: (604) 871-2294, email: lkuehn@bctf.bc.ca

Sustainable Issues: Dawn McLean or Tarah Wilson at British Columbia Council for International Cooperation, tel: (250) 360-1405, fax: (250) 360-2295, email: bccic@web.net

Canadian Arms Trade to the Asia Pacific: End The Arms Race,405 - 825 Granville Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6Z 1K9, tel: (604) 687-3223, fax: (604) 687-3277, email: info@peacewire.org, website: www.peacewire.org/

Human Rights: Pacific Regional Office for Amnesty International, tel (604) 294-5160, email: kylieh@uniserve.com

Workers' Rights and Democratic Development: Carole Samdup, ICHRDD 63 rue de Bresoles, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2Y 1V7, tel: (514)283-6073, fax: (514) 283-3792, email: csichrdd@web.net,

APEC's Corporate Agenda: Contact The Council Of Canadians, 251 Laurier Avenue West, Suite 904, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5J6, tel: (613) 233-2773, fax: (613)233-6776, email: coc@web.net

The People Versus Poverty: Who will win?: 1522 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 3Y2 , tel. (604) 254-0244, fax. (604) 254-3932

Indigenous People's Caucus: Milly Poplar, Union of BC Indian Chiefs, email: ubcic@bc.sympatico.ca

World Peasant Round Table: email: kmp@info.com.ph

Critical Issues on APEC: Walden Bello, email: w.bello@focusweb.org

Satellite Events

Domestic Workers Conference: Fely Villasin, tel (416) 483-1142 or Julie Diesta, INTERCEDE, 789 East 14th Ave., Vancouver, BC, Canada V5T 2N3, tel/fax (604) 874-0649

Pacific People's Declaration: South Pacific People's Foundation, 1921 Fernwood Road, Victoria, BC Canada, V8T 2Y6, tel (250) 381-4131, fax (250) 388-5258 (sppf@sppf.org)

Civil Society and Labour Rights in Indonesia: Barbara Duffield, Indonesia-Canada Alliance, 1072 Deal Street, Victoria, BC, Canada V8S 5G5, tel: (250)595-1572, fax: (250) 360-2295, email: duffield@islandnet.ca

Other

Database of participants: Leona Dolan, British Columbia Teachers' Federation, tel (605) 871-2250, fax: (604) 871-2294, email: ldolan@bctf.bc.ca

Virtual Summit: www.vcn.bc.ca/summit

THE 1997

PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

on APEC

Final Report to Funders

March 1998

The 1997 People's Summit on APEC: Final Report to Funders

Overview

1.0 Introduction

In November 1997, the 1997 People's Summit on APEC was held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The People's Summit (PS or Summit) marked a unique coming together of women, youth, indigenous peoples, workers, people of faith, and community activists; of unions, non-governmental, environmental, church, labour and community organizations from the South and the North. These representatives of civil society gathered to develop policy, to educate and, above all, to challenge APEC's corporate-driven agenda.

Specifically, the objectives of the PS were:

- To advocate for an open, accountable and transparent process among APEC nations which advances human rights, global sustainability and social justice.
- To highlight the social, human and environmental cost of trade liberalization.
- To promote people-to-people contact from the labour and popular movements in APEC countries, and strengthen networks of global solidarity.
- To educate Canadians about Canada's role in APEC, and about development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The work of the PS began in the period immediately before the fourth of the alternative people's gatherings, in Manila in November 1995. Representatives of Canadian civil society began meeting in what became the Vancouver Steering Committee (VSC) and the Canadian Advisory Board (CAB). The aim of the VSC/CAB was to create a forum where those most affected by the decisions made at the APEC meetings would have a voice.

Learning from the experiences of Manila, whose gatherings many members had attended, and from their own discussion in Canada, the VSC/CAB determined that the PS would offer a venue where people from the north and south could debate, network and work together to create alternative visions and strategize to make these visions a reality. In this way, it was hoped that the divisions, which resulted in four separate meetings in Manila, would be avoided.

The VSC/CAB recognized that while they were united in their concerns about trade liberalization and the decisions being made behind the closed doors of the official meetings, they disagreed on strategy. This disagreement was often expressed in terms of engagement/non-engagement with the official process. As a result, the VSC/CAB did not take a stand on policy. It was agreed that the PS would not produce a consensus document. Rather, it would build on the work done by the previous people's gatherings, using the Kyoto and Manila Declarations, and focus on action/implementation plans. Policy statements were left in the hands of individual organizations and Issue Forums.

1.1 Activities

During the period leading up to the Summit, the debate between those who supported engagement and those who did not was part of the lifeblood of the Summit. At the pre-Summit event put on by the Vancouver and District Labour Council and the APEC Research and Information Network, University of British Columbia, Sunera Thobani, past president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women, and Ed Broadbent, former head of the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development, stood on opposing sides in the non-engagement/engagement side of this debate. For most participants at this event, it was not necessary that a stand be taken by the Summit organizers, only that the issues be clearly stated and that discussion and further debate be encouraged.

An attempt was made to create a consensus document. In September, the Summit brought together an international committee to draft a Joint Action Plan for 1998 and Letter to the Leaders. A description of the process is described in the Programme Report, Appendix V: 1.1. It proved impossible to create the necessary consensus because of the diversity of views represented in the committee. During the Summit, another attempt was made to bring the diverse views together. A committee was formed to create a draft preambler statement to be presented at the Summit Plenary. While the majority of participants were in agreement with the final document, still there was no consensus. The rewritten statement became a document of the Summit to which those organizations and individuals in agreement could sign-on. To the Preamble were attached the actions plans/reports from the issue forums.

The work of the PS itself can be divided into two parts. There were the issue forums, which focused on specific topics and varied in size from 100 to 300 participants. The Youth Forum met at the beginning of November so as to encourage the informed participation of young people in the events of the Summit. Otherwise, the forums meet between November 17 and 21. There were also a number of satellite events that occurred immediately preceding and during the Summit. These events were open to all, but were limited by the size of their venue.

The Opening Ceremonies on November 19, the Plenary on November 22, Final Assembly, March for Global Justice on November 23 and the Interfaith Ceremony on November 25 were open to all participants and members of the public. Between November 17 and 24, there were also a number of on-going activities. These included the Media Centre, Virtual Summit, the Computer Centre, and the Centre for Spiritual Kinship, and Exhibition Centre with display tables that were available to participants. The Exhibition Centre was open to the general public. Both local and international organizations took advantage of the opportunity to display information about the various campaigns in which they were involved. (Please see Appendix VI for reports)

The expectation was that participants in the issue forums and satellite would attend the Plenary and bring the results of their discussions. However, most of the participants put their energies into the issue forums. A representative from each of the issue forums and the satellite events did make a report to the Plenary, but there were only about 300 people in attendance. The same was true of the Final Assembly. On the other hand, the March for Global Justice, to which until the very last moment we expected limited participation, gather over 4500 people.

1.2 Delegates

A mailing of over four thousand registration packages were sent out using the lists from the Manila meetings and in response to individual requests. However, the cost of attending the Summit proved prohibitive for many. For others, the difficulty of getting visas prevented them from attending.

Five hundred and seventy-seven participants registered through the BC Teachers' Federation, which handled the central registration process. One hundred and sixty-four registered on site. From the Issue Forums, we have the following examples. The Poverty Forum had 250 people in attendance. The Human Rights Forum had on the first day approximately 400, the majority of them youth. On the second day there were around 200 adults. Open Markets, Open Media had 125 participants of which 25 were from the South. Both Sustainability and Corporate Agenda Issue Forums had over 300 participants and had to turn people away at the door.

The breakdown for the Public Education & Research Issue Forum included: Aotearoa (NZ) 2, Australia 6, Belgium 1, Canada 95, Chile 2, China 1, Hong Kong 4, Japan 3, Malaysia 2, Mexico 7, Papua New Guinea 1, Philippines 6, Thailand 1, United Kingdom 1, United States 11, Vanuatu 2, totalling 145. This forum received registrations from people in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Palestine and Taiwan who were unable to attend because they couldn't get a visa. They actually had received 12 registrations from the Philippines, but only six were able to get visas.

The Issue Forums were filled to capacity and some were forced to turn people away. But, for the PS, the numbers were disappointing. Still, a meaningful contribution was made by people from the South to the Issue Forums and to the Summit itself. Particularly, we were able to fund the participation of 14 delegates from Malaysia where the next People's Summit will be held.

The PS was able to subsidize the following southern participants:

General

Sr Mary Soledad Perpinan	Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, Philippines
June Rodriguez	Rural Enlightenment and Accretion in Philippine Society Inc.
Ronald Llamas	Manila People's Forum on APEC 1996
Muhammad Husni Thamrin	Foundation for Mutual Progress, Indonesia
Mohammad Abdus Sabur	Asian Resource Foundation, Thailand
Jaded Chouwilai	Friends of Women Foundation, Thailand
Carmen Herrera	Viajes Video Mundo, S.A. de C.V., Mexico
Hector de la Cueva	Viajes Video Mundo, S.A. de C.V., Mexico
Fr. Eugene Docoy	Joint Committee of Migrant Workers in Korea
Eliseo C. Tellez Jr.	Mission for Filipino Migrant Workers, Hong Kong
Dr. Subramaniam Pillay	ALIRAN, Malaysia (human rights, research, peace, public accountability)
Abdul Rahman Said Alli	Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association
Yap Swee Seng	Malaysia
Sr Crescencia Lucero	Task Force Detainees of the Philippines
Teh Choong Long	Coalition of Progressive Students, Malaysia

Critical Issues of APEC

Filomeno S Sta Ana III	Philippines, Presenting at Critical Issues Forum
Oum Young-Ae	Korea, Presenting at Critical Issues Forum
Dorothy M. Guerrero	Philippines, Presenting at Critical Issues Forum
Walden Bello	Focus on the Global South

Indigenous Peoples Caucus

Parkaran Krishnan Kutty	Journalist, Malaysia
Domingo Rain Anquita	Consejo de Todas las Tierras, Chile
Rosalinda Santiz Diaz	Chiapas, Mexico

World Peasant Roundtable

Muhammad Putra	North Sumatra Peasant Union, Indonesia
Alicia Raymundo	Centre for Genuine Agrarian Reform, Philippines
Natividad Y. Bernardino	Binhi Agricultural Resource Foundation, Philippines
Nurul Anowar	BAYAN delegate, Bangladesh
S J Prabhakar	BAYAN delegate, India
J. Lampitt	BAYAN delegate, London
Danilo Ramos	BAYAN delegate, Philippines

Human Rights Forum

Norman Bent	Latin American Council of Churches, Ecuador
Teodoro M. de Mesa	Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates
Abdul Rahim Ishak	Malaysia
Rev Karel Phil Erari	National Forum Human Rights, Indonesia

Sustainable Issues Forum

Hermina Degawan	Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Philippines
Yong Ooi Lin	Gender and Development Program, Malaysia
Franz Arnold	Comite Nacional pro la Defensa de la Fauna y Flora, Chile
Margareta Morales	Delegate to Mining Forum, Arizona
Danilo A. Songco	Caucus of Development NGO Networks
Daphne Villenueva Candelaria	Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Rights

Corporate Responsibility

Tony Tujan	IBON Foundation

Open Markets Open Media

Gan Diong Keng	Journalist, Thailand

2nd International Women's Conference against APEC

Lea L Espailardo	Philippine Educational Theatre Association
Tati Krisnawaty	Indonesia
Wang Jiaxiang	China

2. 0 Structure

2.1 Coordination

The overall coordination of the PS was the responsibility of members of the Canadian Advisory Board (CAB) and the Vancouver Steering Committee (VSC). The VSC included organizations that represented networks with a BC-based component (e.g., unions, international development ngos and women's organizations) that agreed to the Vancouver statement on the APEC '97 People's Summit. (See Appendix IV). The CAB included national organizations that represent networks on a national basis. (see Appendix III for list of members).

For a detailed description of the VSC/CAB see Appendix II.

2.2 Secretariat

Terre Flower was hired as summit coordinator starting February 1, 1997. She set up the secretariat. The expectation was that staff be in place soon after the hiring of the Summit Coordinator. This proved not to be the case. Because of funding constraints, the rest of the staff was not in place until August 1. They were Joel Ornoy as logistics coordinator and Grace Cameron as media coordinator. Mel Lehan was programme coordinator for the first seven weeks. He was forced to leave this position because of illness and was replaced by Donna Clark. A registration coordinator (Russ Harding) and volunteer coordinator (Peter Gillies) were hired in late October.

Because of the staffing situation, the Summit relied heavily on the support of volunteers. Over the period of organizing the Summit, thirty volunteers kept the office going and carried out many of the necessary tasks which under normal circumstances would have been in the hands of paid staff.

3. 0 Implementation

3.1 Issue Forums

It was in the Issue Forums that the majority of the Summit's work was done. Issue Forums were those gatherings during the PS whose focus was linked to the topics discussed in Manila. The Issue Forums also agreed to ensure active participation of women and Southern participants. To this end, they worked toward fifty per cent women and fifty per cent Southern delegates in their forums.

The PS supplied a place and the logistical support by which coalitions of organizations could organize their forums. Because, for the most part, they organized on their own, the Issue Forums have been described as mini-Summits. This decentralized process often resulted in the mistaken view that the Summit and Issue Forums were separate entities. On the other hand, it meant that the resources of the VSC/CAB member organizations did not limit scope of the Summit.

The Issue Forum coordinators met together regularly with the Summit staff and were invited to be part of the VSC. Many of the Issue Forum took advantage of this invitation. All but the Workers' Rights and Democratic Development and the Youth Forum met at the Plaza of Nations.

The following is a list of the Issue Forums and Summit Satellite events with their lead agencies.

November 7 to 11	Youth Forum (CoDevelopment Canada)
November 15	Asia-Pacific Parliament on APEC (Forum populaire sur l'APEC)
November 17-18	2nd International Women's Conference against APEC (National Action Committee on the Status of Women)
November 18-19	World Peasant Roundtable
November 19	Open Markets Open Media (International Media Policy and Civil Society)
November 19-20	Public Education and Research Forum (BC Teachers' Federation, Canadian Federation of Students, Canadian Teachers' Federation, APEC Research and Information Network at UBC, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives)
November 20	Sustainable Issue Forum (BC Council for International Cooperation, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, International Institute for Sustainable Development)
	Canadian Arms Trade to the Asia Pacific (End the Arms Race)
	Human Rights Forum (Amnesty International)
	Labour Tribunal (Canadian Labour Congress, International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development)
November 21	Critical Issues on APEC (Focus on the Global South)
	The People versus Poverty: Who Wins? (International Council for Social Welfare)
	Workers' Rights and Democratic Development (Canadian Labour Congress, International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development)
	APEC's Corporate Agenda: Unmasking the transnational corporations that are the driving force behind the free trade regime in the Asia Pacific Region (Council of Canadians)
	Indigenous People's Caucus (Union of BC Indian Chiefs)

There were also a number of Satellite events associated with the PS. These included the Missing in Action? Putting the Pacific on the Asia Pacific Agenda, organized by the South Pacific People's Foundation); the 4th Annual INTERCEDE Domestic Workers Conference and Civil Society and Labour Rights in Indonesia: Advocacy and Networking organized by the Indonesia Canada Alliance.

For a detailed description of the results of the Issue Forums, please see ***The 1997 People's Summit on APEC Proceedings***, the final report of the Summit..

3.2 Staff Reports (Appendix V)

Programme Report
Media Report
Logistics Report
Volunteer Coordinator's Report

3.3 On site services (Appendix VI)

Interfaith Ceremony
Subsidies
Billeting
Display Tables

4.0 Outreach

4.1 Relations with the Canadian Government

Despite some early false starts, the Government of Canada represented by the APEC Division (PGR) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) did assume the responsibility of hosting briefing sessions with the Peoples' Summit organizing coalition. These meetings took place on a monthly basis, whenever possible, beginning shortly before the Leaders' Meeting in the Philippines in 1996.

To its credit, the APEC Division representatives were consistently open to in-person meetings with the coalition and these meetings were conducted in an informal and frank manner. Officials were also readily available by telephone to individual ngo representatives. The government facilitated the consultation process in the following ways:

- notified coalition members directly of meeting times and dates
- provided an opportunity for out-of-Ottawa ngos to participate via telephone
- did not limit the duration of meetings
- ensured the participation of representatives from other government ministries
- provided access to official APEC and Canadian government documentation
- created opportunities to meet coalition members in British Columbia

Nevertheless, there were drawbacks to the process, which impaired its usefulness and undermined its credibility in the view of coalition members:

- there was no financial assistance to facilitate in-person participation from out-of-Ottawa organizations.
- there was resistance to broadening the discussions from APEC to trade liberalization.
- there was an apparent divergence of opinion between DFAIT bureaucrats, CIDA bureaucrats and the Minister's office, often resulting in mixed messages.
- there was no written response to recommendations in the coalition's policy paper, although one was promised.
- there was little or no evidence that the consultations had any effect upon Canada's APEC policy.
- DFAIT was unable to open up APEC's official process to active participation by ngos.

- the ADM for Asia-Pacific, Len Edwards, attended only one meeting during a 15-month period.

On April 24, 1997 a formal consultation on APEC with a variety of government officials, including the Secretary of State for the Asia-Pacific, Raymond Chan, took place at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Ottawa. The consultation was requested by the Peoples' Summit coalition, but participation was open to any Canadian organization and in fact was attended by academics, solidarity groups and representatives of the No! To APEC coalition. The tone of the consultation was confrontational and discussion was heated. The depth of opposition to the government's APEC policy was clearly evident and by the end of the day, the government was forced to re-evaluate its previous decision not to provide funding for the Peoples' Summit.

As a result of the April 24th consultation and other lobbying efforts by the CAB/VSC, DFAIT agreed to provide $100,000 to the Peoples' Summit. This amount was far below what had been requested and was constrained by the condition that none of the funds be used for delegate travel. This condition was unanimously condemned by coalition members, especially in light of the lack of transparency regarding Canadian financial commitments to the official process. This lack of transparency was illustrated during the April 24 meeting, when not one of the several officials in the room, including the ADM for Asia-Pacific and the Director of the APEC Division, could provide a budget figure for the cost of official APEC events in Canada. These two factors contributed dramatically to a general distrust that the governments' relationship with Canadian ngos was based largely on containment and information gathering. Unfortunately, this atmosphere hampered substantive development of the consultation process from that point on.

Coalition members requested a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lloyd Axworthy and the Minister for International Trade, Sergio Marchi, during the Leaders' Meeting itself. The purpose of the proposed meeting was to provide an opportunity for ngos from other APEC countries to lobby the APEC Chair on their priority issues. Additionally, daily briefings for Peoples' Summit delegates were requested. Although the government agreed to both requests, problems did minimize the effectiveness of the initiatives. In the case of the meeting with Ministers, the paper work and security checks which were required days ahead of the meeting prevented delegates from being official representatives of the Peoples' Summit, since the plenary session, which would have mandated them, had not yet taken place. As for the daily briefings, ngos ultimately had little interest. The government representatives were not well informed, and the process seemed to serve little use.

Several issue forums of the Peoples' Summit interacted independently with various Government of Canada officials and ministers. One APEC official, the Lead Shepherd of the Human Resource Development Working Group (also Canadian) met with international ngos within the Peoples' Summit. At least two other governments met with their own ngos in Vancouver.

4.2 Canadian Organizing Network

Canadian Organizing Network and the International Organizing Networks were formed so that interested individuals and organizations that wished to show their support could do so by joining the networks. In Vancouver, the local members of the Canadian Organizing Network were invited to attend monthly educational meetings after the monthly meetings of the Vancouver Steering Committee. In addition, representatives from the Summit made presentations at churches, community groups, ngos and other organizations during the time leading up to the Summit.

4.3 The Listserv

For supporters in and outside of Canada, the apecforum-l listserv became the place to access information about APEC and the work leading up to the People's Summit. During the PS, the Daily Communiqués were posted on the listserv as were press releases. Community groups active in protesting the APEC meetings also used the listserv. For example, both APEC Alert, a student group at the University of British Columbia, and the No! to APEC group used the listserv to advertise their events and to keep the readers informed about the results of the police actions on the university campus.

4.4 Educational Poster

The educational poster was distributed to all of the Summit organizations. It was also posted throughout Vancouver. This widespread distribution was in no small part responsible for the unexpected turn out of over 4500 people to the March for Global Justice which ended the Summit.

4.5 Daily Communiqués

Daily Communiqués were produced each day of the Summit. Reporters covered each of the issue forums, starting with the Youth Forum. Their profiles were included in the next day's communiqué. The Communiqués were also used to update the participants about changes in schedule. It was here that the draft version of the Preamble was made available.

They were available first thing in the morning to all participants and members of the public. They also appeared on the listserv and on the Virtual Summit web site. It was agreed that the Communiqués could have been more widely distributed.(Please see ***The 1997 People's Summit on APEC Proceedings***, the final report of the Summit for a complete set of communiqués)

4.6 Virtual Summit: www.vcn.bc.ca/summit

The Virtual Summit was a way to use the internet to broaden participation in the Summit Here people who were not able to be part of the physical summit could receive information about the PS and issues surrounding the APEC meetings. They also could interact with the Summit in virtual reality. The Virtual Summit continues to be maintained. Through it, the ***Proceedings*** will be accessible on line to the broader community. In addition information about on-going work and discussions leading up to Malaysia will be available. (Please see the Virtual Summit Report Appendix VI: 1.1)

4.7 Volunteers

The devotion and enthusiasm of the volunteers was a significant component in the Summit outreach to the local Vancouver activist community. Through them, the word went out to organizations and individuals who were our natural supporters. Through them, we recruited more volunteers who were indispensable to the work of putting on the Summit.

5 Fundraising

Fundraising for this event proved to be problematic. While the PS involved participants from the South and the North, it was held in the north. Funders, even those who had given funds

to previous Summits, proved reluctant to fund an event in the north. Because of the financial climate, many of these same funders were reassessing their priorities. This meant, for some, restricting the causes to which they would give support; for others, putting funding on hold while their organization went through a strategic review.

From the beginning there was a commitment among the organizers to raise enough money to ensure a significant participation of Southern delegates. In the early stages of planning the PS, its organizers expected that a large amount of funds for delegate travel would come from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) which traditionally funded the participation of Southern ngos such as these. However, a political decision was made not to fund delegate travel. In the end, with support from the labour movement and ICHRDD and some foundations, we were able to raise over $130,000 to support the participation of Southern delegates. Forty-six delegates received funding as a result of the fundrasing efforts of the Summit. Individual issue forums funded others. For many, it was too little too late and they were unable to attend.

As for the general budget, crucial support came from the organizations of VSC/CAB. No only did the VSC/CAB members give of their time, but they also gave the financial and in-kind assistance which was the life blood of the PS. Likewise, the support of local ngos and unions in the form of mailing, photocopying, meeting room space, recycling and other in-kind support was invaluable. The provincial government too, offered its support in the form of a venue and office equipment. (see Appendix I for a list of contributors)

The federal government was forthcoming in the end. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Industrial Trade did give support by covering the cost of the staff. They also funded "Canada and APEC: Perspectives from Civil Society", a discussion paper prepared by the Policy Working Group of the VSC/CAB. The Centre for Foreign Policy Development contributed to the administrative costs of running the office. In January 1998, almost two months after the PS finished, we received the final contributions from the federal government. This amount, almost $41,000.00, was a large proportion of money, which had to be covered from other sources and was not available when the Summit was being organized nor when it was actually happening..

Given the overall cost of hosting the official APEC meeting in Canada and in Vancouver, the supporters of the PS were not out of place in questioning the low level of funding from governments who see themselves as supporters of civil society participation in policy development.

6.0 Evaluation

6.1 Overview

Our Objectives

- To advocate for an open, accountable and transparent process among APEC nations which advances human rights, global sustainability and social justice.
- To highlight the social, human and environmental cost of trade liberalization.
- To promote people-to-people contact from the labour and popular movements in APEC countries, and strengthen networks of global solidarity.
- To educate Canadians about Canada's role in APEC, and about development issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the whole, the Summit was successful in meeting the objectives set by the organizing body. In fact, it might be said that the members of the VSC/CAB, the staff and volunteers of the secretariat and the organizers of the Issue Forums succeeded in making the seemingly impossible possible.

While some continue to criticize the organizers for not setting policy making as its goal, those who wished to engage and those who did not found a place at the Summit. For those who sought to engage the official process, the monthly meetings between Canadian government and civil society leading up to the Summit were a step towards a more open process. Members of the Summit coalition are making progress so that consultations will continue in some form. Daily debriefing by a representative of the government at the Summit site at the urging of the coalition was also a significant concession However, as a means of sharing information, it only brought into focus the fact that representatives of civil society were more aware of the implications of APEC policy than their government counterparts.

The access to information which made the most of the final drafts of APEC papers available and unclassified was done under Canada's chair. However, these are the final documents. Access to the working papers is still restricted..

Another step towards a more open, transparent and accountable process was the participation of representatives from civil society in the official Canadian delegations Still they did not sit at the table, but watched the deliberations from close circuit television.

It would seem that for the governments of other APEC countries, the Canadian experience might be interesting, but not a model that most could see themselves following. The historical interplay between the Canadian government and ngos is not found in other APEC countries. From the Canadian side, the jury is still out as to whether or not this was a one shot deal. For consultations on trade policy to continue, a commitment from both sides of staff and financial support as well as a commitment to more openness on the part of the Canadian government is necessary. Will Canadian officials press other countries to do the same is also a question? From the point of view of civil societies in other countries, the model exists. However, it would be hard to imagine the Malaysian coalition having that kind of access when even the American APEC working group did not.

For those who sought the ways and means to bring an end to large and larger trading blocks and attempts at greater and greater trade liberalization and globalization, there was a place for them at the Summit. There were models of bioregionalism and local sustainable development. The handling of Asian financial crisis by the IMF might help their work and bring the struggle to a different arena.

From the beginning, it was the intention of the organizers to focus on networking and on strategizing. The Manila experience with its four separate meetings has proven that there were a great number of strategies available to highlight and address the costs of APEC. In Canada too, when the Summit was taking shape, divisions were obvious. Some of the No! To APEC groups with their ties to the non-engagement activities in Manila responded positively to the invitation to be part of the Summit. In Vancouver, this was not the case, even though there were others in the Summit organizing group that clearly shared their point of view. While some of the No! To APEC

organizers were very vocal in their attacks on the PS organizers, other organizations including the Anglican and United Churches, chose to be involved with both organizations. The No! To APEC made use of our listserv. The Langara Student Union which was involved with No! To APEC worked with the PS in the planning of the March for Global Justice. The giant puppets of Art against APEC for which the Summit helped pay appeared in both the March for Social Justice and the No! To APEC demonstrations. These are just a few of the cross-fertilizations that happened.

Perhaps the most positive aspect of networking at the Summit came from those activists working with Migrant Workers. It was clear in their presentation that not only were they building on the work done in Manila, they planned to be accountable to the meetings around Malaysia. They took the opportunities presented by the meetings in Vancouver to hold themselves accountable for the goals set in Manila and to create new ones for Malaysia. This meant a promise of action during the year leading up to the Summit and a process of accountability and reporting back during the Summit. Because of limited access to information about work done at previous summits in their area of concern, many of the organizers felt that they were reinventing the wheel. The Summit in Vancouver ended with repeated commitment to making sure that this was not the case for the next Summit.

Steps are already being taken to ensure this continuity, helped by electronic communication. For example, a new electronic discussion list has become available to those who want to get more involved in Pacific Rim trade and forest issues, especially relating to APEC. The list, called <forest-pacrim>, will help activists build wider networks so they can keep each other informed and develop joint strategies to confront trade and investment's threats to forests. Subscribers can post messages that pertain to trade and investment initiatives, corporate activity, grassroots advocacy, and forests on the Pacific Rim. Pacific Environment and Resources Center (PERC) will manage the list, keep you up to date on APEC, and post information that we think will be of interest to international activist subscribers. The idea for this list was generated at the Special Session on Forests at the Summit, at which activists expressed an interest in monitoring forest product trade and incorporating international trade into their local campaigns to protect forests. It is the work of Paige Fischer, at Pacific Environment and Resources Center, Sausalito, CA.

A meeting of people from the Education and Research Forum on the last day of the Summit agreed to attempt to put together a network of researchers to carry out projects related to a popular and alternative framework for development in the Asia-Pacific. The group is seeking funding to support both research and a network for exchanging work.

We did succeed in changing the language of APEC in Canada. Unlike our government, we put human rights on the table. When we began planning, APEC was merely letters to most members of the Canadian public. Because the meetings before and during the APEC gathering were closed, not much was known. For the better informed who listened to the word from the government, APEC meant jobs. For people living in Vancouver, it promised inconvenience. By the end, even the national mainstream media had got the word. The Summit, the No! To APEC activities and the actions of the students at UBC issued a challenge to the "one dimensional" nature of the APEC meetings. More than 4500 people took to the streets on the last day of the Summit to help make this message heard. They were putting human rights front and centre where it should have been all along. Even Lloyd Axworthy heard.

For detailed recommendations from the Secretariat relating to implementation please see Appendix VII

7 Some Remaining Questions

- Absence of international participation in the planning /Continuity with previous summits

Are we in danger of reinventing the wheel with each Summit?

Many of the participants felt that there needed to be stronger links with previous summits and international participation in the planning from the beginning. How do we ensure both support for the local organizing group in the planning of their event and inclusion of the what was learned at previous events. Each Summit has its own internal dynamics and political situations, which give it shape and substance.

But what about the financial cost?

What about the ideological divisions?

- Accountability

Would a report back mechanism where action plans taken on for the year could be assessed at the next Summit increase our own accountability? The group concerned about the rights of migrant workers is doing this.

Is this problematic when there is not formal organization? Would it make us look like APEC with everyone writing their own country report and then reports on how well they did at the end of the year?

- A policy statement from the Summit organizing group

Did a stand need to be taken on engagement/non-engagement? Was a policy statement built on consensus possible? Certainly, there were frustrations expressed by participants who wanted the Summit to take a stand. Was the Summit success in that a venue was created where these frustrations, these differing voices, were heard?

In trying to create such a statement would we have destroyed the coalition-building work which made the VSC and CAB possible? Would the networking in the issue forum have been possible?

Did the lack of policy statement limit the political effectiveness of the Summit?

While we did not have several gatherings, did we still ended up with too many voices?

- Decentralized structure

Were we too decentralized with a number of mini summits in the form of issue forums?

Yet isn't it in the networks formed in the issue forums where the work will be carried on?

Did this mean that key issues such as the social clause did not come to the table for discussion by the whole summit? Would anything have been gained by a discussion of strategic issues on which there are divided and strongly held views?

Did the limited numbers attending the Plenary affect the level of debate?

- "Because it was in Canada" - Impact on the member organizations of the VSC/CAB

Some of the organizers are preparing for Malaysia. Many, but not all, of the organizations, which made the 1997 People's Summit on APEC possible, have shifted their focus away from APEC. They still remain concerned about the broader issues of trade policy.

It is clear that the benefits gained by the experience of working together with new allies, both north and south, will not be lost when addressing other issues of mutual concern.

Appendix I

Contributors

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BC Government and Service Employees' Union
BC Teacher's Federation
BC Tel Advanced Communications
BC Tel Mobility
Campbell River, Courtenay and District Labour Council
CAW/TCA
CAW/TCA Airline local 1990
Canada Asia Working Group
Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace
Canadian Center for Policy Alternatives
Canadian Council for International Cooperation
Canadian Environmental Network
Canadian Federation of Students - BC
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Vancouver and District Labour Council
Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Community Development
West Coast Environmental Law Association

Appendix II

Vancouver Steering Committee and the Canadian Advisory Board

written by Carole Samdup, International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

The Peoples' Summit on APEC was administered by a loosely formed coalition of international, national and local non-governmental organizations and trade unions. The coalition was broken down into two bodies, the Canadian Advisory Board (CAB) and the Vancouver Steering Committee (VSC). Division of responsibility between the two bodies was articulated in an early conference call between members, and is appended to this document.

The Canadian Advisory Board was a coalition of sectoral networks, which was formed for the sole purpose of organizing a non-governmental event parallel to the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Vancouver. A full list of CAB/VSC members is appended to this document. CAB members represented several hundred Canadian organizations. (Appendix III)

The Vancouver Steering Committee was a more fluid gathering of individuals and organizations which were involved to one degree or another in organization of the Peoples' Summit. VSC members were, in some cases, the provincial counterparts of CAB organizations (i.e. the Canadian Labour Congress) but the majority were independent British Columbia-based groups.

VSC members met at regularly scheduled meetings and formed local sub-committees responsible for public education initiatives and various aspects of logistical coordination of the summit. Local issue forum coordinators also interacted with the VSC, especially towards the end of the process. They were also provided with opportunities to contribute towards the policy decisions upon which the Peoples' Summit was designed.

The CAB and VSC met monthly via telephone conferences which were coordinated by the secretariat and paid for by coalition members. The substance of political and logistical decisions took place during these calls. Additionally, CAB/VSC members met in Vancouver on three occasions for face-to-face planning sessions.

Several sub-committees were formed from the membership of CAB/VSC. These included a finance committee, programme committee, policy committee, bursary selection committee and drafting committee. The sub-committees worked independently and reported to the monthly joint telephone conferences. Overall coordination of activities was maintained by the secretariat under guidance of the summit coordinator.

In general the process worked well, but as always improvements could have been made. The inevitable problems associated with long-distance collaboration were minimized by the general positive attitude of participants and their dedication to the issues at hand. Nevertheless, we were hampered primarily by a lack of funds and a lack of time. The amount of work involved in the organizational process was underestimated and CAB/VSC

members either did not receive the necessary support of their organizations or in the case of volunteers, found themselves over-committed.

Additional problems resulted from difficulty in sharing quickly all of the information from various teleconferences and meetings, and to an ever-changing/growing list of stakeholders. This was the case particularly at the start of the process, when poor flow of information delayed formation of the framework necessary for effective event coordination. Misunderstandings and duplication of efforts at times hampered effective decision making and created a certain level of frustration. The result was that some individuals felt their input was belittled and not given adequate consideration, and others felt that their expertise and experience was not used to its potential.

Nevertheless, the spirit of compromise prevailed and one of the lasting benefits of the People's Summit will surely be the friendships and networks built across Canada, during the past year. These networks will certainly pave the way for future joint initiatives in support of social justice campaigns here in Canada and internationally.

Appendix III

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Appendix IV
Vancouver Organizing Committee Statement

In November 1997, the leaders of 18 members of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) will gather in Vancouver for an APEC world summit. Initiated in 1989, APEC consists of 18 members including Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and the United States. As the host country for the 1997 summit, Canada will play a significant role within APEC that year.

The decision to have the summit in Vancouver constitutes international recognition of Vancouver as Canada's gateway to the Asia-Pacific region and reflects the creative diversity of the city. The 1997 APEC summit offers an opportunity for all Canadians to become better acquainted with the Asia-Pacific region.

As a coalition of popular groups, unions and international development/human rights organizations, we are concerned, however, about the agenda developing within APEC. Since the 1993 summit in Seattle, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have monitored APEC activities. It appears that APEC is adopting a neo-liberal programme of 'free trade,' deregulation, privatization and so forth that will undermine future possibilities for sustainable development, social justice and worker/human rights in the region.

Of particular concern is the invisible and undemocratic nature of the APEC process. APEC describes itself as an organization of "economies," not countries. This avoids the three Chinas problem but it also conveniently separates economic issues from their national and social context, leaving matters such as social justice and human rights completely off the agenda. Furthermore, under the guise of bringing in the 'private sector,' APEC has established a formal APEC Business Council in which CEOs of giant transnational corporations are warmly welcomed in APEC deliberations. Has, or will, APEC become captive to the agenda of a powerful group of trans-national corporations? Who, may we ask, is speaking at the APEC table for child labourers, for migrant workers, for women, for unions, for indigenous peoples?

As the APEC consultative process has consolidated, NGOs have begun to organize. There were NGO meetings parallel to the 1995 APEC summit in Japan. They issued the Kyoto Declaration and the Kyoto Statement on Workers' Human Rights in the APEC Region (enclosed with this statement). There will be other NGO conferences parallel to the APEC summit in the Philippines this November and we see the Vancouver '97 People's Summit as a continuation of this international movement.

In order to assure that the voices for sustainable development, for democracy, for human rights, and for social justice are heard during the 1997 APEC summit in Vancouver, we are committed to organizing a parallel forum that will bring together NGO, community and union activists from Canada and other APEC countries. We call on all non-governmental organizations (development; the environment; women's rights; indigenous peoples; human rights; churches; trade unions; peace; immigrant workers) to join us in this endeavour by endorsing this statement and by joining the network for a popular summit.

Appendix V

1.1 Programme Report

From a report by Donna Clark, Programme Coordinator

a) Structure

Programme Coordinator/ Programme Committee/ Drafting Committee/Vancouver Steering Committee/ Canadian Advisory Board

The Programme Coordinator was part of a Programme Committee and Drafting Committee which worked with and reported to the Vancouver Steering Committee and Canadian Advisory Board.

There were two Programme Coordinators: The first coordinator, Mel Lehan, began at the end of July. Donna Clark began on October 9th. They each worked for about 7 weeks in their positions. The changes in Programme Coordinator was due to sudden illness.

b) Programme

The program components developed in order to meet the above objectives included:

I. Drafting Committee
II. Opening Ceremonies
III. Plenary
IV. Final Plenary
V. Concert & Dance
VI. Walk and Rally

I. Drafting Committee

It was decided to establish a Drafting Committee in late September. The members of the Drafting Committee were identified by the Vancouver Steering Committee/Canadian Advisory Board. Members were chosen to ensure gender and country balance, and included representatives from previous Summits and the one to be held in Malaysia in 1998. Acknowledging the difficulty of securing Southern representation, the aim from the beginning was to be as inclusive as possible.

It became clear shortly after the Drafting Committee began meeting that it would be impossible to reach consensus. As a result, its members agreed that it was best to abandon the writing of an Action Plan and Letter to the Leaders in the name of the 1997 People's Summit. However, consensus was reached on producing a sign-on document, the Preambular Statement

This Statement to which the Issue Forum Reports would be attached was written over the course of the People's Summit in Vancouver and signed by those in agreement. A member of the Canadian Advisory Board wrote a draft of the Statement. A meeting was called of those interested in redrafting the Statement. Finally, the Statement was printed and distributed on-site at the People's Summit for feedback. It was read aloud at the Plenary and changes were incorporated. At the Final Plenary, interested participants and organizations were asked to sign it.

Evaluation

The objective of writing a Joint Action Plan for 1998 and Letter to the Leaders was not reached. However, many felt that such an objective which required reaching consensus across the diversity of strategies and perspectives within the People's Summit, was not a reasonable one.

Specifically, the Second International Women's Conference Against APEC, which joined the Drafting Committee in early October, questioned how consensus could be reached in the name of everyone participating in the People's Summit, and across the gulf between engagement and non-engagement. Specifically, they and others were concerned about the exclusion of those perspectives which did not align themselves with the perceived dominant engagement perspective within the People's Summit..

It was also recognized that relationships needed to be more developed internationally as well as across sectors and strategies, in order to work towards such a document.

These concerns were not unrelated to the Plenary where the final Action Plan and Letter to the Leaders would be ratified.

II. Opening Ceremonies

About 800 people attended the Opening Ceremonies which were held in the evening of November 19th.

Elders from the three First Nations which claim Vancouver (Salish Territory) as unceded land, spoke first to welcome participants to their territory. The three First Nations are: Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waw-Tuuth. All of the elders were men. The elders spoke briefly and gave a prayer. They were given tobacco and an honorarium, in keeping with their traditions.

Human rights were put on the People's Summit's agenda with the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Jose Ramos-Horta from East Timor, as the keynote speaker. Ramos-Horta had been denied entry to participate in the 1996 Manila People's Summit.

Elijah Harper from the host country of the 1997 People's Summit, and Irene Fernandez, representing the 1998 People's Summit in Malaysia, were chosen as co-chairs for the Opening Ceremonies. Both Elijah Harper and Irene Fernandez welcomed participants to the People's Summit and introduced all speakers and performers. They also spoke briefly on the struggles of their communities in relationship to APEC.

Maude Barlow, of the Council of Canadians, a Canadian Advisory Board member organization, spoke in the name of the People's Summit. Two representatives of the Vancouver Steering Committee and Canadian Advisory Board gave brief logistical announcements and special thanks to People's Summit staff.

Song and dance performances were interspersed between the various speakers. A children's singing group, Ray Thunderchild and brothers, and singer Maura Volante all performed. Ray Thunderchild and brothers led us in a Round Dance. The Round Dance was performed early in the program because of its function as a friendship dance traditionally performed to introduce people to each other. At the end of the evening, Maura Volante led us in a song she had specifically written for the occasion.

Evaluation

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the role of song and dance performances in the Opening Ceremonies. Some were pleased with the interactive-style of the song and dance performances. Others thought the "entertainment" should be at the end of the evening's program, so as to allow those who came to hear the speakers the chance to leave once the song and dance and performance started.

Although there was significant participation of First Nation's people in the Opening Ceremonies. First Nation women were not present. This absence was noticed by a First Nation women and Vancouver Steering Committee member. Subsequently, First Nation women were asked to lead the Walk For Global Justice as well as to speak first at the Rally which followed.

In planning, the role of the co-chairs brought much discussion. In addition to introducing all speakers and performers, it was agreed that the chairs would have an opportunity to raise their own issues of concern in relationship to APEC.

Another concern was the inclusion of food as part of the welcome for participants as in Manila. Although, the Vancouver Steering Committee and Canadian Advisory Board were unanimously in favour of food being at the Opening Ceremonies, budgetary considerations made this impossible.

III. Plenary

The structure and process of the Plenary was another problematic aspect of the People's Summit .
Concerns about inclusion and the democracy of the process which came up during the attempts to draft the Action Plan and Letter to the Leader remained and were raised in the planning of the Plenary.

It was important that the process guarantee that Southern participants and women's voices would be heard. To this end, in the initial planning, the Plenary was to be a delegated assembly with each Issue Forum choosing up to 25 delegates who would have voting and speaking privileges at the Plenary. These delegates were to be 50% women and 50% southern.

The Women's Conference Against APEC questioned that process and proposed a structure which did not distinguish between participants and delegates. Their suggestion was to have two mikes on the floor: one for the North and one for the South and that each participant at the mike identify themselves in terms of organization and nation. In this way, it was felt the chairs could adequately keep a democratic check on who was speaking and who was not.

The VSC/CAB agreed not to make a distinction between delegates/observers. They also informed the Plenary co-chairs and participants that every effort would be made so that those who traditionally have difficulty voicing their concerns would be heard. A system of rotating co-chairs was used to ensure a diversity of voices. This avoided the question of process being the focus of the Plenary. Instead the Plenary became a time for the Issue Forums to report on their action plans and for questions of clarification and comments from the floor.

Evaluation

Because there were no documents to be ratified, the issue of democratic participation became less charged. Many of the Issue Forum Coordinators, themselves, had not been clear about the workings of the initial process and structure of the Plenary, therefore, a delegate-based system may not have worked in practice.

IV. Final Plenary

The Final Plenary on Sunday, November 23rd, consisted of a final report from the group drafting the Preambular Statement. All those who agreed with the statement were encouraged to sign on at the end of the Final Plenary.

Workshops on various action themes followed. These included the Multilateral Agreement on Investment and Women's Resistance. These workshops were for one and a half hours and were not documented in a written format.

These were followed by a ceremony designed to acknowledge the continuity with previous gatherings in Manila. The signed banner from the Manila People's Summit and the one from the Vancouver Summit were handed over to the Malaysian planning group.

An elder from the Tsleil Waw-Tuuth Nation closed the Summit.

V. People's Concert & Dance

The People's Concert and Dance attracted about 300 people.

Evaluation

Because we had no "big names" in the line up, these low numbers were to be expected. It was important to be flexible enough to allow participants, who are also musicians and performers, the opportunity to participate in the Concert.

VI. Walk and Rally For Global Justice

Despite the threat of rain, the turnout for the walk was beyond expectations. Vancouver City Police estimated 4500 people at the walk.

There were a number of sectors participating in the walk, including many who had not participated in any other alternative to APEC activity. In addition, groups which actively supported the NO to APEC activities in Vancouver were involved in planning the March. These included the Langara College Student Union.

Art Against APEC provided the following elements to the Walk: a ten-piece horn band which played a 25-minute repertoire; a devil on stilts, a skeleton on stilts, a giant Chretien puppet and a giant anti-corporate sculpture carried by 15 people. These were used in other marches which followed.

A folk music society had rewritten traditional English songs into lyrics of protest against APEC. These lyrics were distributed (300 copies) at the Walk. Two folk musicians also sang the songs throughout the walk.

The Rally point at Cordova and Howe was up against the 14-foot chainlink fence and cement barricades of the APEC security zone.

Evaluation

The Rally location would have been fine except that it was at the end of a corridor which felt claustrophobic to many people. Moreover, it could not hold the large numbers of walk participants. The size of the Rally site combined with the small-scale sound system (400 person capacity) and 5-by-5-foot stage made the numbers of people sustained by the walk difficult to maintain.

We had a very limited number of marshals for the Walk (perhaps 12). All of these marshals were inexperienced. Considering we had a Walk of 4500 people the number of marshals was highly inadequate. Fortunately, there were no incidents. The negotiations with the City of Vancouver and the police at all levels were lengthy and ideally required more lead time. It was imperative that at least two people were at each meeting and that one of those be a Board member.

The Board decided that the speakers and musicians for the Rally were to be determined throughout the process of our gathering in Vancouver. This process was very effective in terms of determining the most effective speakers and in terms of inclusivity.

1.2 Final Media Report

written by Grace Cameron, Media Coordinator

a) SUMMARY
b) THE PROCESS
c) THE RESULTS
d) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a) SUMMARY

The communications goal of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC was to put the People's Summit on the media's agenda, in the forefront of organizations and on the lips of individuals, locally, nationally and internationally.

The Communications Plan called for widespread publicity in the months prior to the Summit. It included a comprehensive and aggressive media campaign using mainstream and alternative media outlets as well as in-house and membership newsletters produced by non-governmental, labour, religious, human rights and other community groups and networks. The campaign built slowly. There were news stories and public service announcements primarily in Vancouver community television and radio stations (and short pieces in the Vancouver Sun and Global Television), cross-Canada religious and organizational newsletters. Literature was also distributed at events and debates concerning globalization and trade liberalization.

Media attention became more frenzied in the weeks immediately preceding the Summit, starting with a two-page spread in MacLeans Magazine and national coverage on CBC radio. This attention continued with an overwhelming amount of telephone, fax and personal contacts with reporters locally, nationally and internationally and culminated in an extraordinary amount of coverage during the week of the Summit and the days following.

b) THE PROCESS

The initial stage - laying the foundation

What Happened

- Identified media spokespeople from among the organizing groups of the Summit.
- Developed broad-based media lists.
- Discussed cross-promotional opportunities with Issue Forum Coordinators.
- Identified avenues of distributing information. For example, information about the Summit with a mailing done by the Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) without the cost of postage; distributing literature at events such as meetings and discussions around APEC, trade liberalization and globalization; distributing information via the APEC-L listserv; and fax broadcasts via the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

Intermediate stage

- Created an initial generic press release regarding the Summit and the participation of 1996 Nobel Peace Prize co-winner, Jose Ramos-Horta, as keynote speaker. The press release, along with a People's Summit information brochure and *Human Rights, APEC's Missing Agenda* from International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic

Development (ICHRDD) were distributed to media outlets in the Lower Mainland as well as to international media. *Human Rights, APEC's Missing Agenda* was distributed to the national media by ICHRDD's communications department.

- The Canadian Centre also distributed press releases, media advisories and Public Service Announcements via fax broadcasts for Policy Alternatives (on behalf of the Summit) to Lower Mainland and British Columbia sources. In the days leading up to the Summit, media advisories were also sent via Canada News Wire, courtesy of the Canadian Labour Congress.
- Issued a series of Media Advisories in the six weeks leading up to the Summit. The information provided details about speakers participating in the various Issue Forums as well as about resource people who could speak about the Summit in general and/or on issues of concern to the Summit.
- Religious reporters across the country were also sent a press release and the Canada Asia Working Group's (CAWG) newsletter regarding religion and APEC.
- Op-ed pieces, written by high profile individuals involved in the People's Summit process, formed another plank in the media campaign. Two columns from Ed Broadbent and Maude Barlow of Council of Canadians went to newspapers in Canada and the US. Ed Broadbent's column was published in the Vancouver Sun, Toronto Star and the Seattle Times.
- Initiated and maintained contact with a number of key media personnel, such as Ted Alden of the Vancouver Sun, Corey Howard of CBC's Newsworld Pacific Rim Report and the producer of the Judy Tyabji show among others.
- As part of this process, information such as Jane Kelsey's articles *To engage or not to engage*, and *Demystifying APEC*, as well as other information from the APEC-L listserv were circulated to these and other reporters.
- Worked with Jose Ramos-Horta's publicist to arrange media for him. The result was back-to-back media interviews over a 3-day period.
- Identified story ideas and gathered information on Summit participants for the media.

The final stage - during the Summit

- There were four press conferences: The launch press conference, featuring Bob White (Canada), Irene Fernandez (Malaysia) and Tati Krishnawaty (Indonesia) with facilitator Joan Grant-Cumming. The theme: Why a People's Summit?
- A second press conference on day two of the Summit was organized by a group of East Timorese women with the assistance of the Summit's media team.
- Day two also featured another (emergency) press conference called in response to veiled threats from the Indonesian Foreign Minister concerning the safety of Indonesians participating in protests in Vancouver. This press conference drew a large number of reporters and generated stories in media outlets in Vancouver, across the country and internationally.
- The US NGO Working Group on APEC distributed a subsequent press release from Summit organizers to media sources in other APEC countries.
- The final press conference, focusing on action plans, featured Elizabeth May (Canada), Walden Bello (Thailand) and Apo Leung (Hong Kong).
- As part of the media process during the Summit a group of participants (international) was identified to respond to issues coming out of the actual APEC conference.

The immense portion of the media coordination during the week of the Summit entailed responding to media requests for information and interviews with specific participants or with individuals who could speak to the concerns of the Summit. Responding quickly and effectively to these requests was vital in terms of maintaining the flow of information to the media and ensuring continued presence in the press during the Summit and the days following.

The Media Team:

Shannon Daub, media coordinator for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) played a critical role in the media campaign. Beginning in October Shannon took on the task of getting information to the Lower Mainland media. The CCPA also covered the long distance charges on two occasions when information was sent to media sources province-wide. Shannon was also a key player in organizing press conferences and making media contacts during the week of the Summit.

Ven Neralla, from the US NGO Working Group on APEC, was also a part of the media team for several weeks, helping to plan press conferences and coordinating the media registration process.

Lois Ross, Communications, CLC, was invaluable, getting information out (in both official languages) to the national media through Canada News Wire and acting informally as a consultant to the media process.

Jo Anne Walton, a Vancouver publicist and filmmaker, also provided media consultation.

The media coordinator laid the foundation for the media campaign with input from Shauna Sylvester who, on many occasions (sometimes on short notice), handled media interviews and fielded questions from reporters.

Members of VSC/CAB and other staff also supported the work of the Media Team by responding quickly to requests for interviews before, during and after the Summit.

c) THE RESULTS

- Limited media coverage in the months leading up to the Summit. Information about the Summit appeared mainly in church bulletins and newsletters; publications by organizations such as CUSO and the BCCIC; Vancouver's Co-op Radio; community television - Rogers Cable. Information also appeared in the Vancouver Sun and on Global Television.
- Extensive coverage shortly before and during the week of the Summit. The coverage was local, national and international, appearing in media outlets such as these:

VANCOUVER AND BRITISH COLUMBIA
CKNW: The Rafe Mair Show; and the Bill Good Show
Pacific Rim Report
CBC Radio: This Morning

CKWX Radio
VTV Television
CTV Television, Vancouver
Northern Native Broadcasting - Terrace, B.C.
Broadcast News
Cana
Ming Pao Newspaper
Sing Tao Newspaper
Rogers Cable
BCTV
Vancover Sun
Vancouver Province
Global Television
Business in Vancouver
Vision Television
Georgia Straight
Co-op Radio
Kinesis Newspaper
CBC Television
Knowledge Network
CFMI Radio
Monday Magazine, Victoria
Victoria Times Colonist

NATIONAL
CTV - Canada AM
CBC Radio
CBC Television
CBC Newsworld
French CBC
Radio Canada International
CKLN Radio, Toronto
Maclean's Magazine
CBC Television
CPAC - Parliamentary Channel
Toronto Star
Canadian Press
Ottawa Citizen

U.S. AND INTERNATIONAL
Shen-Chao Chang Central News Agency
Reuters News Agency
Canadian Press
Interpress News Agency
BBC
MacNeil Lehrer News Hour, U.S.
Time Magazine
Apple Daily, Hong Kong

Tokyo Broadcasting System
Voice of America, South East Asia
Dutch Radio International
National Radio Network SBS, Australia
The Nation -largest newspaper in S. E. Asia, Thailand (daily coverage)
New York Herald Tribune
Seattle Times
Seattle Post Intelligencer
L.A. Times
KFRB, San Francisco
The Jakarta Post
Radio Free Asia
KIRO Television, Seattle
KBBO Radio, Portland, Oregon

AND MANY OTHERS

d) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- The People's Summit and its concerns are not, for the most part, of great significance to the mainstream press. For many members of the media the Summit is an event, or in some cases an opportunity for personality profiles. In the case of the 1997 People's Summit, while there was some interest prior to the event, media attention only intensified shortly before and during the Summit.
- Realistically, the lion's share of coverage will always occur shortly before and during the Summit. Information in the mainstream press in the early stages is clearly a "bonus." However, to help in generating early press it is important to circulate information (and maintain the flow) as early as possible in the process. This involves identifying issues; generating story ideas; identifying media spokespeople and participants ahead of time; as well as developing a relationship with key members.
- The situation is reversed in the case of the alternative media whose audience is usually aware of and/or interested in issues raised by the People's Summit. Also, due to their publication schedules, many community newspapers, religious and organizational newsletters will carry information about the Summit a month or two before, thereby stimulating interest in the earlier stages.

In the future it would be worthwhile to divide the media campaign into two streams -- mainstream and alternative media - and developing a strategy for each.

Despite the resounding success of the 1997 People's Summit media campaign the coordination process was difficult and lined with barriers to achieving the communications goals. Some examples and recommendations:

- Lack of background and resource information from Manila and previous Summits meant everything (media lists, media contacts etc.) had to be created from scratch. To provide media coordinators with a headstart, it is critical that any information from previous Summits be readily available.
- Severe shortages of funds meant basic items and services such as stamps and photocopying were not always readily available. Getting out information to the media in

a timely fashion is a critical part of the process. Relying on the volunteers and the media coordinator to "courier" information is not an effective use of time and resources. It's important that there is an adequate media budget to cover expenses.

- Lack of speakers and media spokespeople. The Summit needs several reliable, knowledgeable, articulate and media savvy individuals to speak on its behalf. At the beginning of the process a solid list of spokespeople needs to be identified with a brief biography, area(s) of interest and (some indication of) availability. This information in the form of a media advisory can be part of the early flow of information to the media.
- By far, the most frustrating and unproductive situation was the inadequate infrastructure and resources. Inadequate telephone system, sub-standard office equipment and inadequate staffing levels, for example, were stressful and emotionally draining for staff and frustrating for volunteers.

1.3 Logistics Report

written by Joel Ornoy

The following report provides a brief overall summary of the logistical components of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC (referred to as "the Summit").

In retrospect, the job description for the Logistics Coordinator was fairly accurate in outlining the duties and responsibilities that fell to the Logistics Coordinator, with certain exceptions that will be outlined below. As will be discussed below, the ability of staff to effectively carry out these and other duties, was severely hampered by the significant time and resource limitations inherent to this project. As such, it was evident from the very beginning that these limitations would, to some degree, influence the quality of the program and services provided. In addition, there were several other tasks such as registration, volunteer coordination, database maintenance and operation, and information dissemination that for lack of other staff, often fell to the Logistics Coordinator. The establishment of a feasible and efficient registration procedure that was amenable to all parties involved, the recruitment of an off-site registration coordinator, the compilation of material and coordination of the mail-outs for the registration packages, as well as troubleshooting for the registration process proved to be the most challenging and time-consuming tasks of this position. The magnitude of work involved with this one component alone, would seem to justify the recruitment of additional registration staff.

Overall, the Summit seems to have met most of its objectives from a logistical point of view. Most, if not all the services promised to both organizers as well as participants, were delivered in a satisfactory manner. Where there were logistical problems on-site, they were of a fairly trivial nature, or could be solved immediately and it seemed that few participants noticed or cared, in that almost no complaints were registered with the Secretariat staff, Summit organizers and volunteers. With a few minor exceptions and/or last minute emergency changes, all goods and services were in place at the right time and in the right quantity, thereby ensuring the relatively smooth operation of both the Issue Forum and People's Summit events.

From the viewpoint of the Summit Secretariat and organizers (Issue Forum coordinators and Summit Board) as well as the Plaza of Nations' personnel and our audio-visual and other suppliers, the logistical components of this event were deemed to be highly successful. Comments from our participants, both direct as well as second hand, were generally positive, with only the occasional complaint heard regarding "poor overall planning". However, without a formal evaluation process in place, (such as a comment box, or post-event evaluation forms), it remains difficult to evaluate the success of the Summit as seen from the viewpoint of the participants.

Logistics Evaluation

The following is a breakdown and brief summary of the major logistical components of the Summit:

Audio-visual Equipment

Audio-visual (AV) equipment was ordered for the Summit and the Issue Forums through one supplier. Although each Issue Forum sent in their individual orders to the supplier, billing and overall coordination went through the Secretariat, resulting in significant price savings, and easier communication and coordination with the supplier. In general, this system was quite successful. The only complication arose on-site, when successive Issue Forums requested that AV equipment and PA systems (which had already been installed for the previous Issue Forum) be rearranged on a daily basis. This resulted in greater labour costs than originally anticipated. Therefore, to avoid this problem in the future, it may be necessary to have the Issue Forums agree ahead of time on one generic layout for their venues and then communicate that to the suppliers.

Tables/Chairs

This item proved to be an unnecessarily exhausting and complicated process, since the People's Summit and the Issue Forums were left with the task of establishing a way to coordinate the setup, the quantities, the different types, and the layout of tables and chairs, which differed from Issue Forum to Issue Forum and from day to day. With the overall coordination of tables and chairs undertaken by the Secretariat, calculating a fair cost-sharing system proved to be fairly complicated as well. In the end, this last headache was removed, once the provincial government agreed to absorb the cost of this item. Aside from one or two last minute amendments which were solved on the spot, there were few problems with this particular item. Issue Forums submitted their orders to the Secretariat, which along with the People's Summit requirements, was relayed to the supplier. The Logistics Coordinator subsequently played a liaison role between the provincial government and the supplier around negotiating prices and payment on behalf of the Summit.

Production

Production refers to the provision of sound systems for People's Summit events - particularly for the main sound system installed for general events, such as Opening and Closing Ceremonies, the Plenary and the People's Concert. Production was provided by the Plaza of Nations in a very efficient and timely manner, particularly in the two events where last minute changes required that PA systems be set up immediately. This occurred with one of the late-comer Issue Forums, which had assumed that a PA system was already included in their venue, and therefore declined any equipment before the event. The second instance was the day of the Plenary, when the Summit organizers felt that relocation of the Plenary to a smaller venue would be more appropriate for the size of the audience. Although these were necessary measures, they did add considerably to our production bill. This sort of additional expense could have been avoided in the example of the media feed box, which was ordered two days before the final conference, leaving us with no choice but to accept very poor equipment at four times the regular cost.

Food

While a few of the Issue Forums elected to cater their own events, other on-site food options included: a cafeteria serving coffee, snacks and sandwiches was operated by a unionized caterer contracted by the Summit specifically for this event. In addition, outdoor food vendors selling Guatemalan, Brazilian, Thai and Filipino fare, and an on-site restaurant offering 15% discounts to People's Summit participants, rounded off the list of on-site food services available to participants.

Registration

Registration proved to be one of the more complex and unsatisfactory aspects of the Summit. With 11 different Issue Forums holding separate registration processes in addition to the People's Summit registration, and no registration system in place 3 months prior to the conference, it was evident that the Summit was woefully unprepared in this regard. In an attempt to provide a more comprehensive and simple registration system, it was decided to centralize registration through one organization, as long as the Issue Forums agreed to a common fee for their events. While all Issue Forums were open, they reserved the right to screen and reject applicants to their forum in order to ensure balance. This, as well as addressing the problem of limited space in the Forums, made it necessary to provide a second choice for applicants. A common fee was necessary in this regard in order to allow for easy transfer of an applicant's registration from one forum to the other should they be denied their first choice. While there was initial agreement by the Issue Forums, numerous fee changes were made at a later date, well after thousands of registration forms had been mailed out. As a result, many registrations were received with incorrect payment (based on the erroneous fees listed on the registration form), which resulted in a great deal of confusion for participants and an accounting headache for the Secretariat and the Issue Forums.

A second complication arose in the coordination of on-site registration. While there was a formal on-site registration system in-place, with mechanisms for cross-referencing those who had registered for the Issue Forums with those registered for the People's Summit, admittedly, there was little time to coordinate the process with Issue Forum coordinators. Perhaps as a result of this shortcoming, registration for the People's Summit was very disappointing. About 350 people officially registered, in contrast to the generally healthy attendance at the Issue Forums with numbers ranging from 200 to over 300. For some, would be participants were turned away at the door because their Issue Forum was full. As it turned out, the majority of people attended the Issue Forum of their choice, but either through ignorance or lack of interest, did not register or attend the People's Summit events. Only the Opening Ceremony, with Jose Ramos-Horta as the keynote speaker, drew a large crowd (approximately 800 people), while events such as the Plenary and People's Concert were poorly attended. Attempts to collect a suggested donation of $10 for the Opening Ceremony and the Plenary/Concert were only partially successful since it was difficult to discriminate between those who had already entered the building to attend Issue Forum and those who were entering for the first time.

Child care

Child care was provided off-site at a nearby location by a professional mobile unionized daycare operation. In this case, the Summit was successful in providing high-quality service in an excellent venue at a very reasonable cost ($30/day), yet the service was remarkably under-utilized. Only 4 parents made use of the facility over a 6 day period, leaving the staff with a great deal of time on their hands. However, those 4 children received outstanding care and attention while there. The quantity of staff hired to staff the daycare was continuously amended both prior as well as during the Summit as it became evident that demand for the service would not meet our original expectations. Fortunately, the daycare organizers were extremely flexible and managed to adjust according to the level of demand.

Airport Shuttle

Two shuttles were leased for the event; one 8 passenger van which was used throughout the event as general transportation to pick up supplies, transport the cashier to do bank deposits and other on-going tasks. The second 15 passenger van was used as transportation for delegates from the airport to the downtown Vancouver hotels for the period of November 18-20. This service was operated in conjunction with an information/welcoming booth at the International Arrivals level of Vancouver Airport and was successful in transporting approximately 20 - 30 people a day. Volunteers staffed the information desk and acted as shuttle drivers.

There were no complaints/comments registered with the Secretariat regarding this service. The volunteers on site felt that the service was well received. With lower-than-anticipated numbers of overseas participants, this relatively modest level of service turned out to be fairly appropriate to the demand. However, there were instances where we could have benefited from having a second airport shuttle available. Had funds been available, in addition to the extra van, it would have been worthwhile to have hired a driver (as opposed to relying on volunteers) and to outfit them with a cellular phone in order to ensure a more coordinated and punctual service.

Translation

After much consideration, it was decided that it would not be feasible to undertake translation services, since simultaneous translation would prove to be financially prohibitive. As a solution, it was decided that any language difficulties would be dealt with as they arose, by taking advantage of the numerous multilingual staff, volunteers, and participants that were on-site. Since the Summit was billed as an English-speaking event, few participants experienced communication problems. Where there were difficulties, as in the case of the two Chiapas representatives, Spanish translators from amongst the participants were on hand to provide elbow translation. In the case of the Cameroon participant, billeting was provided with a French speaking couple.

Security Issues

The RCMP provided two liaison officers for the Summit, who proved to be our main contact with regard to security on-site as well as planning for the march/rally. Two plainclothes police were present (at our request) at the airport to monitor the arrival of Jose Ramos-Horta as well as throughout the day of November 19, one of our busiest days, which included Mr. Ramos-Horta's keynote speech at the Opening Ceremonies.

In addition, numerous security guards were hired at additional cost from the Plaza of Nations to ensure the safety of participants and equipment, both indoors and outdoors. No security problems were encountered during the Summit.

On-site Communications

BC Tel Mobility gave us the use of eight cell phones that were used by staff immediately preceding and during the Summit. This made efficient on-site communications possible. In addition, the on-site Internet benefited from the support of BC Tel Advanced Communications by way of a high speed Internet connection that they supplied.

1.4 Volunteer Report
Volunteer Coordinator Peter Gillies

Highlights
Eighty four volunteers contributed a total of 212 four hour shifts - almost 900 hours of volunteer time over the five day period (this does not include the excellent work of our "full-time" office volunteer). Key functions included registration, administration support, technical support for the Wednesday and Saturday shows, information booth and T-shirt sales management, driving, translation and ticket sales. We also had excellent support from the Canadian AutoWorkers memberships at the airport - five Canadian airlines employees were the backbone of a three-day shuttle service which meet most of the incoming Asia flights during the peak periods (0900 to 1400) Tuesday to Thursday.

Key components of the volunteer program.
Functions and schedules: A schedule of volunteer requirements by function by day was drafted by Joel Ornoy Logistics coordinator and was reviewed by the other management personnel. A one line job description for each of the functions was developed. Volunteers were scheduled from 0730 to 1230 and 1200 to 1700 except Sunday 1000 to 1500.
Recruiting: The volunteer coordinator began with a number of lists and volunteer applications collected by the People's Summit. A phone blitz of 197 potential leads generated the 84 volunteers who eventually contributed. Volunteers were encouraged to come prepared to "pitch in wherever needed" although specific preferences were respected. (generally people did or did not want to be frontline customer service).

Data Management: Three Excel Database where used
- volunteer requirements (job)
- volunteer contact info
- volunteer scheduling (by shift by day by location (airport or plaza)- not by job)

Training: A volunteer training session, attended by 28 people, was held Monday evening at the conference site. This focused on giving volunteers:
- an overview of the conference objectives, schedule and layout
- an understanding of what would be required to best serve the delegates
- job specific training on registration.

A number of delegates from the women's conferences made a brief presentation..

On-site: Volunteers checked in at the beginning of their shift at the volunteer office. Job were assigned based upon current needs (see the list of key function in Highlights above) and volunteers were extremely co-operative in responding immediately, and returning for new assignments when done. Volunteers were also very good at on the job training - taking new volunteers under their wing and giving them a quick overview of key information. Volunteers consistently reported in when they finished shift.

Observations and Recommendations

Lead by example If a job needs doing quickly staff should lead the way.

Use volunteer knowledge: The information booth at the entrance to the enterprise building was a key resource for determining what types of things delegates needed, and how to satisfy them. The coordinator constantly quizzed booth volunteers for the "latest requests".

Start with a plan, and respond flexibly: About half of the 25 job types in the original schedule were never assigned, and about 5 new job types emerged.

Know what volunteer skills are on-site: Language skills, technical expertise and driving skills (including class four license) were needed frequently on an ad hoc basis. The coordinator kept an informal list of where these skills resided at any given time.

Feed and water volunteers regularly: Each volunteer was given a People's Summit T-shirt as well as a daily ration of one coffee and one muffin. The coordinator roamed constantly to ensure continuous contact with the volunteers, and hence to out clients - the delegates.

Appendix VI

1.1 The People's Summit on APEC and Vancouver CommunityNet

written by Peter Royce, Vancouver CommunityNet

This report describes Vancouver Community Network activities toward the development of civic perspectives on APEC, through the provision of information technology, in terms of three areas: web cafe, email list, and web page.

Introduction

The People's Summit on APEC took place at the Plaza of Nations in Vancouver between November 19 and 23, 1997. The Summit ran parallel to the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation conference and provided a forum for the development of civil society perspectives on the APEC process. The ability of the Summit to reflect the diversity and richness of civic perspectives from around the Pacific Rim was limited by it having a very short duration and by very few people being able to attend in person.

The Virtual People's Summit addressed the limitations to participation of time and space by using developments in information technology and communication networks to allow greater involvement of people who could not attend in person and improved communication for those could. Vancouver Community Network was contracted to provide 4 staff: a reporter/writer, a web page designer, a systems administrator/technician and a co-ordinator.

Web cafe

The Vancouver Community Net designed, implemented and operated a multiple terminal installation on site at the People's Summit on APEC. The Web Cafe was installed on November 17th and dismantled on November 24th. The equipment setup was as follows:

7 - Multimedia Pentium Computers
1 - Ethernet Hub
1 - Ascend Pipeline 50 (ISDN Router)
1 - HP Print Server
1 - HP Laser Printer
1 - Set of 25' Ethernet cables

The computers were networked together using Win95 networking software. A dedicated ISDN Internet connection was provided by BC-Tel Advanced Communications. The dedicated Internet connection was linked into the Win95 network giving each computer a direct connection to the Internet. Each computer also had word processing capabilities and access to a networked printer. (see attached photos)

The Web cafe site was located on the mezzanine floor in the Enterprise Hall of the Plaza of Nations. This was below the Press Gallery and next to the administrative offices, both of which were provided with Internet feeds from the Ethernet hub installed at the Web Cafe. Having a location separate from, but close to the Trade Show area ensured a steady flow of traffic and a high level of terminal usage.

World Wide Web access

Each computer was configured to access the Internet and World Wide Web using the Netscape browser. This provided participants with simple to use, fast access to information resources stored on Internet computers around the world.

The installed Netscape Browser allowed participants to navigate the Virtual Summit web site and other Internet resources using a Point and click" technique on a clearly designed graphical user interface.

The computers were configured to have a "home" screen set to the Virtual Summit Web page. This made conference details, schedule, daily communiqués and most other Summit information regularly requested by participants readily available to Web Cafe users with the minimum level of computer and Internet skills.

Email access for Summit participants was provided at the Web Cafe in four ways. Netscape mail was enabled on the terminals so that those without an email address anywhere could send mail from a temporary conference address.

Those with an email address elsewhere, and who use a Netscape type of mail system were able, with a minimum of configuration, to pick up their mail and store it on the terminal for processing and replies.

Vancouver CommunityNet accounts were set up and enabled for participants who wished to get an affordable permanent or temporary address and wished to use a text interface. Volunteers were able to help participants register and validated the accounts on the spot so that they were enabled by the following day.

A large number of participants had email and Internet accounts elsewhere but did not use Netscape type of email. A simple Telnet program with a button on the front screen was provided so that these participants were able to access the resources of their own server and account.

Support and Training

Between the hours of 9 am. and 5 pm. volunteer support and help was available for participants to enable their effective use of the equipment and solve any problems as they arose. After the first day of the Summit the terminals were left active throughout the day and night to meet the demand of participants for Internet access in the early mornings and evening.

Training took place on an ad hoc one-to-one basis or in small groups. Training needs varied greatly from one group or individual to another. In general participants were more interested in a very specific skill set to get the job at hand done rather than more general and structured training in using components of the Internet.

One-to-one training often included a brief tour of the Virtual Summit Web site and instructions on the resources available and how to navigate the site to take advantage of the currency of the material.

Invitations were sent out to a select group of organizations in developing countries to host regional workshops, which could develop skills, and content that could contribute to the Summit in an organized formal manner. Unfortunately, largely due to the short time available these workshops did not happen as planned. There were however informal contributions to the Summit from overseas but these necessarily had less impact than a more organized input.

Web Cafe use

The Web cafe was used heavily except outside of regular day and evening hours. There were frequently queues of participants waiting for an available terminal. On many occasions, groups of individuals worked at a terminal together, collaborating on their particular project. After the first day of the Summit, terminal time was sufficiently sought after that notices were posted on each terminal with suggested time restrictions for each user.

The terminals were used to research information and view sites of organizations working on associated issues. Many of the sites visited with information on the Summit and related issues were available as links from the Virtual Summit Web site. The terminals were also used design documents that were later put up on the Summit web site.

Daily activities and reports were sent, by out of town participants, to home groups and input received toward future positions. The configuration made it simple to send Web page and background documents by email.

The computers of the Web Cafe were also used extensively as word processors for composing and producing daily reports. These documents were printed for proofing etc. and also submitted for publication via email.

A shared laser jet printer was installed to spool and produce printed material from all the terminals. Much of the material printed was either reports and writing of participants or printed versions of material found on the Web that could be read at leisure away from the terminals. Documents from those not able to attend were on occasion printed for copying and distribution.

Vancouver Community Network complemented it's provision of help and assistance to participants with a display and information table where participants could register for email accounts, get help or learn more about the role of Community Networking in the public sphere

Problems

More formal and structured workshops would perhaps have worked well if they were integrated into the Summit schedule and publicity at the planning stage. As an addition to the wide and interesting range of People's Summit activities there was

insufficient interest to warrant these special activities. Instead participants were intent on solving their more immediate problems with the medium. The conference was focused on civil participation in discussions around APEC. This participation was of primary concern to participants.

Lack of knowledge of the software package or general forgetfulness meant that many participants left their email configuration and files on the terminal after they had finished working. The next user would often change the configuration to meet their needs but the terminals accumulated personal email throughout the Summit. These personal documents were available for any participant to peruse. This could be solved by a combination of reconfiguration and education.

Simple instruction and resource sheets provided with each computer would have enhanced a wider and more extensive use of the online resources available at the Web Cafe. Even while the Virtual Summit home page was located on the screen of each terminal, many participants did not understand it's use or relevance until they were shown.

There were a few requests from participants to link their own laptop computers to the temporary network, we were unable to do this simply. If two or more ports were configured so that people with their own laptop computers could have utilized the Web Cafe without adding to the resources needed some of the peak period congestions would have been relieved.

Email list

Listservs allow a group of individuals separated by considerations of space and time, but connected by a common interest, to maintain a space to discuss and develop individual and collective ideas. Email sent to the People's Summit on APEC listserv apecforum-l was forwarded to all those who had actively subscribed to the list.

The listserv was particularly important prior to the Summit for information and registrations, and for those who reside outside of North America where the World Wide Web is not so accessible. The contents of the listserv often mirrored that of the web site so as to provide a simple text accessible version of the Summit proceedings.

Email messages to the list included background documents, opinion pieces, current articles published elsewhere, registration and Summit information, discussions of APEC issues and other related discussions.

Listserv archive

Vancouver Community Network implemented and installed an archiving mechanism to the apecforum-l listserv. The messages sent to the list were subscribed to and automatically archived to as consecutively numbered set of simple Web accessible documents. The archived messages were not stripped of their headings and addressing information so the source and contact information of each message would be transparent to researchers.

The listserv archive is located at http://www.vcn.bc.ca/summit/doc/ and contains

over 400 documents from people contributing to the discussion and documentation. The documents are easily searched by keyword using the Glimpse search engine. For example a search for "China" entered into the search box would report all e-mail's which contained the word "China". These files can be viewed using the World Wide Web as text files. They can be viewed with the lowest level of equipment and browser to maximize their accessibility.

Virtual Summit Web Page

The Virtual People's Summit Web page is hosted on Vancouver Community Network's server and has the URL http://www.vcn.bc.ca/summit/ The Web page was registered with search engines both manually, using registration services and through the use of meta tags. The Web site was also publicized through the Listserv and via other People's Summit publicity including radio and television.

A large volume of information was stored at the Virtual Summit web site in an accessible form by anyone with access to the World Wide Web. Page guidelines included that the material be readily accessible using both text and graphic browsers.

The Web site included information on the mission of the 1997 People's Summit on APEC and a description of how the Virtual Summit relates to the overall event. A registration section and forms for printing and mailing were among the first documents to be both installed and used by overseas users. The time savings in being able to access, print, then mail in a form, are great when there is little time available

An online schedule of the Summit with information on content and speakers was posted well before its starting date. This was modified and improved as more information became available. Links were installed from the schedule to related information and sites.

The Web based schedule was able to accommodate and publicize last minute changes in a way that is very difficult and expensive with print based media. It was also not limited by considerations of size so was able to make available material from comparable events of previous years. These web pages are installed and maintained in the countries in which the previous summits took place.

The Virtual Summit Web page provided a wealth of information and related documentation for those with the time and interest. Also each Issue Forum of the Summit provided information for documents to provide a context for their particular day of events. Many of the groups had a large range of documentation and supporting links to related sites on the Internet. Some of these were highlighted by featuring them on the front page others were left imbedded as background material. A navigation bar was installed on each page to avoid dead ends and provide quick access to the key resources of the Web page such as the Search engine, daily Communiqués and the Issue Forums.

Each issue forum group was encouraged to participate in and claim "ownership" of its page. While this did happen to some extent, more often the groups without Internet skills provided the Web designer with information, while those with higher skill levels installed parallel pages on their own systems which were more integrated with their regular Web presence and operations. All participating groups managed to achieve some degree of

Web presence with key statements, addresses, phone numbers and contact people being available information to all.

Issue forum groups who were in contact with the Web designer prior to the Summit, were helped to develop their online resources and given one-to-one assistance both designing and writing their Web page. A wide range of Internet literacy skills was evident in the non-profit sector groups participating.

Reports

Each day volunteer reporters attended a wide range of Issue Forum talks, events and discussions. Short readable articles were produced for editing in the evening. Also reports from the Forums were gathered where available along with administration notices and changes to the schedule. These were compiled into a regular daily Communiqué that was made available in both print and Web format by the next morning. Ten regular daily Communiqués were produced and published both on paper and online through the duration of the Summit. These allowed participants to have a plain accessible overview of the previous day's activities at hand throughout the day as a reference tool. The simultaneous Web publishing and posting to the Listserv of the Communiqué made it accessible worldwide and available as a resource for groups and individuals wishing to contribute to the discussion and Summit in general but without the resources to attend.

The Virtual Summit Web site continues to be hosted by Vancouver CommunityNet and will act as a resource and available archive up until the next summit. Final reports of the Issue Forums and other Summit related activities are continuing to be posted as they are complied and forwarded to Vancouver Community Network. The resultant archive of documents and links is permanent resource available more widely than the printed copies could ever be.

Conclusions

The key constraint to meeting the goals of the Virtual Summit project was one of time. While time constraints had an impact on many of the activities or both the People's Summit and Virtual People's Summit, they were most evident in organizing training workshops, especially the proposed regional workshops which were not realizable as originally conceived. Instead, regional electronic involvement in the People's Summit was on a individual and group initiated basis and was less formally structured. Local capacity building workshops would have more likely been realized if they were integrated with the Summit as a whole from the initial planning stages. Instead, the capacity of local and regional groups and participants was increased through the activities and more informal learning of people constructing their Web presence or using the Web Cafe.

On a more positive note the Web Cafe was a resounding success, it was used continuously, was able to fill most participant needs and was complimented by most of those who used it. The same can be said for the daily Communiqués. A highly motivated team was able to produce a clean, informative and attractive publication both on paper and online with a twelve hour turnaround. The Virtual Summit Web site also provided and will continue to provide important information. The activities, discussions and

recommendations of the Summit have attained a degree of permanence and accessibility that would have been impossible a few years ago.

1.2. The Interfaith Ceremony

written by David Spence

Interfaith Working Group: David Spence (chair), Deborah Simpson, Marie Noonan, Seis^^lom, Joyce Lydiard, Lucia Hogeven, Mavis Jemeleita, Terre Flower and others who consulted with the Group from time to time.

The Interfaith Working Group provided two opportunities to acknowledge the important place of religious traditions and spiritual ways on the agenda for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
The first opportunity was the Centre for Spiritual Kinship. It was a private space for people to use for prayer, meditation, stillness, and quiet conversation. It was located in the building on the Summit site. The second opportunity was through an Interfaith Ceremony, held at the Urban Native Indian Education Society's Centre. The purpose of this Ceremony was twofold: one, to bridge spiritual beliefs, values, and practices with social responsibility; and two, to equip participants with hope and to renew their energy to do the work.

When people arrived at the Ceremony they were greeted by a fire burning in the centre of the room and received a gift of a stone. The Ceremony began with an invitation to place the stone around the edge of the fireplace. Then, representatives from Aboriginal Spirituality, Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism, Judaism, Wicca, Zoroastrianism, and Unitarianism offered music, ritual, prayers, and dance from their traditions. At the end of the Ceremony, people were encouraged to choose a stone to take as they left the Ceremony. They were told that the stone held the spirit of the Ceremony and the energy of the fire. As people return to their homes, the spirit and the energy they held in their hands would go with them.

1.3 Billets/Homestays

written by Gerry Kiliganan

The registration form informed participants that there would be a limited number of opportunities to be accommodated in private homes during their stay in Vancouver. More than 60 persons requested this type of accommodation.

Requests for places to stay were sent out through participating and supportive NGOs and other organizations. The best response came from teachers in the area. Many responses came from persons living in the suburbs. These were rejected because of the difficulty of travelling to and from the Summit site. We were unable to accommodate all requests, so priority was given to persons coming from developing APEC member countries. We were able to assign 26 persons to host families prior to their arriving in Vancouver. Some requests were received very late, making responses to them difficult. Of the original 26, only 13 arrived at the homes of their assigned hosts. Some had let us know they were not coming and some had not.

Five people requested accommodation after arriving. We were able to place them. One person changed her mind after accommodation was found for her and another did not check back to use the accommodation arranged for him. One person was asked to leave the

home of his host because one member of the family was uncomfortable with him in her home when she was alone with him.

1.4 Display Tables

written by Gerry Killganan

Invitations to book display tables were sent out to aboriginal groups, social justice and environmental NGOs concerned with issues relevant to the Peoples' Summit. No fees were charged for the use of space. Requests were received from 33 groups including 2 from Asia and 1 from Latin America, and from two local bookstores. The space available for this purpose could only accommodate 27 tables, with a small number sharing tables. The remainder was placed on a waiting list. One bookstore withdrew its request and the other was able to use vacated space on the last day.

Having an area for display tables gave organizations opportunities to tell people about the issues they are concerned about, the work they are doing and to network with each other. A VCR and monitor was available to show videos. It was used minimally.

1.5 Travel Subsidies Report

written by Marilyn Hoar

Of the over 100 requests for subsidies to attend the People's Summit, 46 delegates received subsidies. A bursary committee of the CAB/VSC, composed of John Vandenberg of the CAWG, Gauri Shreenivasan of CCIC and Carole Samdup of ICHRDD, chose the recipients keeping in mind geographic and gender balance, as well as the relevance of the organization's work to APEC and trade issues. Priority was given to applications from Brunei, Chile, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, the Philippines, Papau New Guinea and Thailand. In the end, due to last minute substitutions, only 17 of the travel subsidies went to women. BAYAN and MFPA were given lump sums to distribute to their representatives as they chose. Delegates from 9 countries received subsidies: Philippines (19), Malaysia (10), Mexico (4), Indonesia (4), Thailand (2),Chile (2), South Korea (2), Hong Kong (1), China (1), Ecuador (1).

The travel subsidies were budgeted at 2750 Canadian dollars each, covering airfare, visa costs, taxes, accommodation, and a per diem of $40 per day. Actual subsidies ranged from $316 to $4247, since some recipients' expenses were reduced by other funding or stayed with billets and airfares varied considerably. Recipients were asked to stay for a minimum of 8 days, attending more than one issue forum and all People's Summit activities.

In most cases, recipients were issued a cheque at the Summit. Vancouver City Savings and Credit Union was very helpful, cashing delegates' cheques at a convenient branch. Only a few US Drafts and money transfers were necessary. Most delegates were reluctant to have cheques or bank drafts mailed to them, due to unreliability of postal services and difficulties with banking.

Appendix VII

Implementation Evaluation/Suggestions from the Secretariat

1. Office Structure - The Summit Secretariat suffered greatly from a lack of staff and resources. As a stand-alone office, with no administrative or support services, staff were dependent on volunteers to undertake significant projects that would normally be assigned to paid staff. In addition, staff time was eaten up by the vast number of administrative and information dissemination tasks that are inherent to an operation this size.

It is important to ensure a solid foundation beginning with the basics such as proper telephone system and office equipment as well as adequate staff and staff time to carry out the job. While volunteers will always be an essential part of staging an event such as the People's Summit, there are tasks that should not fall under the responsibility of volunteers

One-time projects such as these could be housed under the auspices of a large well-established organization that can provide much-needed support both in terms of equipment and resources (both financial and human). Without question, the Secretariat's role would have been far easier and more efficient had this been the case.

2. Organizational Structure - Canadian Advisory Board/ Vancouver Steering Committee/Issue Forums/Secretariat. This decentralized structure, in addition to supporting the mistaken view that the Summit and Issue Forums were separate entities, led to the feeling, that somehow the Issue Forums, the CAB/VSC and the Secretariat were separate entities, rather than a coalition working together to implement this project. Had the Issue Forums been more directly involved in policy decisions and given a greater stake in the execution of the overall event, we may have avoided many of the problems that arose during the lead-up period as well as during the Summit itself. Registration is an example, where the high Issue Forum registration numbers compared with low People's Summit registration may have reflected the lack of ownership on behalf of the Issue Forums in promoting the Summit in addition to their own forums. These problems were only partly addressed by the invitation, given to Issue Forum coordinators, to become part of the VSC.

3. Fee Structure - An additional difficulty of the registration process involved the differing fee structures between the Summit and the various Issue Forums. This complicated the registration process and confusing registrants. Many people were not entirely sure as to the difference between the forums and the Summit: who they were supposed to pay, how much, and for what. Separate fee structures also resulted in an unnecessarily complicated accounting process for the Summit. Therefore, it is suggested that a one-time all-inclusive registration fee would have made things far simpler for both the organizers as well as the participants. In addition, a Registration Coordinator should be hired well advance of the Summit to liaise with the Issue Forums and oversee the process.

4. Volunteer Coordination - A volunteer coordinator was hired only 2 weeks prior to the event, due to budget restrictions. Understandably, this was insufficient time for the coordinator to acquaint himself with the project, recruit sufficient volunteers and orient them in time for the event. As it was, a brief orientation was provided, and volunteers were simply slotted into positions as they arrived on-site, with the exception of key volunteers such as those staffing the Secretariat office on-site, and those doing registration. Therefore,

it is recommended that where possible, a volunteer coordinator be hired at least 4 to 6 weeks prior to the event.

5. Continuity - Communications and consultation with previous organizers could have been vastly improved. As such, there was little information flow between the two; resulting in some level of resentment on the Manila side, and possibly damaging the sense of continuity that is so important to this annual event. Therefore, a more systematic and on-going consultation process with Malaysian organizers of the 1998 Summit may result in a more effective Summit in terms of planning, administration and implementation.

6. Coalition Building- Our program, was a "living" program, while although well-formulated, continued to evolve according to the relationships with participants and organizations on-site. The early morning meetings of the Vancouver Steering Committee/Canadian Advisory Board was key to allowing quick responses to necessary changes in the programme.

8.Billets/homestays - Late requests for accommodation were difficult to place. They required another round of recruiting host families. All the families who hosted guests, except the one mentioned above, were very pleased with their experiences, Those whose guests did not arrive expressed disappointment at missing the experience. All expressed appreciation for the follow up phone calls. One person should be assigned responsibility for this part of the project. Begin recruiting hosts as early as possible. When sending out the requests, be clear about requirements, such as proximity to Conference site. We refused many offers because of inappropriate locations. Set a deadline for accommodation requests, so that there are fewer late requests. Be clear about who is eligible for this type of accommodation and who is not.

9. Subsidies - Because funding for travel subsidies was not confirmed until very late, some delegates received notice of their subsidy too late for travel arrangements to be made. Those delegates who did not receive a subsidy did not have enough time to secure alternate funding to allow them to attend. These factors may also have affected the number of women who were able to make arrangements to attend.

10. Display tables - Some groups were very late in setting up their displays and some had their material there erratically, thereby creating problems with the groups that had been put on the waiting list. The location of the tables was away from the main activities, which some people perceived as a problem. Some moved their displays on the last day to the room where the plenary sessions were being held. If at all possible, display tables should be where there is the most access. They make a worthwhile addition to the Peoples' Summit. Clear criteria for selection of appropriate groups using the tables should be stated at the time of invitation.